



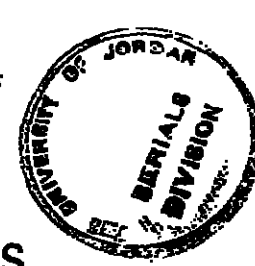
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Barak expected to suspend Orr from party posts

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Labour Party leader Ehud Barak was late last night expected to expel MK Orr from the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the faction executive, and Labor's leadership team, following his derogatory remarks about Sephardim.

Orr reportedly suggested to the Labor faction that he suspend himself from the faction, but no further details were available on what this meant.

The faction was still meeting after midnight last night to discuss the Orr affair, amid mounting pressure on Barak to do something decisive to force Orr's resignation from the Knesset, or at the very least, from all his party positions.

Barak refused to say whether he asked Orr to resign at the meeting. As a growing number of Laborites pressed for Orr's resignation, Orr asked to convene the faction so that his colleagues hear him out before deciding on the matter.

Orr caused would blow over and insisted it was necessary to clearly disassociate Labor from Orr's statements. They also pointed out that a suspension is insignificant when the Knesset is on recess for three months.



Shohat said Orr will have "no choice but to go home." This isn't going to go away or cool down. The damage is irrevocable: no explanations will help.

Shihab-4 missile 'will have nonconventional warhead capability'

By STEVE RODAN

Iran, which last week test-fired a missile with a range of 1,300 kilometers, is rapidly developing a more sophisticated weapon with a range of more than 2,000 kilometers and capable of carrying nonconventional warheads, military sources said yesterday.

The new missile is called Shihab-4 and its development could be completed within the next two to five years, the sources said.

Unlike the Shihab-3, test-fired last week, which is based on the North Korean No-Dong missile, the Shihab-4 is entirely a product of Russian missile technology and can carry biological, chemical or nuclear warheads.

The sources said Israel has been feeding Moscow intelligence on the involvement of both private and government-aligned companies in the Shihab-3 program. They said Iranian military sources said that, despite its pledges, the Russian government is not significantly slowing down the pace of missile technology transfer to Iran.

IDF soldier killed in zone

Five others
wounded in
Hizbullah
ambush

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Hizbullah guerrillas ambushed an IDF squad on its way to firing practice in south Lebanon yesterday, killing one soldier and wounding five others, the army said.



Israel Air Force Apache attack helicopters take off yesterday for another mission against Hizbullah guerrilla targets in southern Lebanon's security zone.

Another IDF force counterattacked and pursued the Shihab-4 gunmen until they set off a roadside charge. No IDF soldiers were hurt in the explosion, but the Hizbullah guerrillas escaped, apparently unharmed, military sources said.

The soldier killed was identified as Staff-Sgt. Shahar Mins, 21, from Kfar Ahim. His death brought to nine the number of

Hizbullah terrorists laying in wait, or the Israeli force was spotted, and the Hizbullah moved in," said an IDF officer in the Northern Command.

The Hizbullah gunmen opened fire with heavy machine guns and mortars. The army said the force returned fire.

Under incessant Hizbullah mortar fire, IDF helicopters evacuated two of the wounded to

'Jewish children burned alive at site of Auschwitz crosses'

By HANI SHAPIRO

Jewish children were burned alive at the very spot where Polish Catholics are now setting up crosses at Auschwitz, according to Naphthali Lavi, the former Israeli consul in New York.

Lavi, a Holocaust survivor who now serves as vice-chairman of the World Jewish Restoration Organization, was reacting to a report in The Jerusalem Post this week about the erection of some 50 new crosses close to the fence of the concentration camp.

Another Holocaust survivor, sent a letter to the Polish president asking him to immediately intervene and ensure the removal of the crosses.

The Catholic organization that put up the crosses reportedly said it would continue to raise them along the length of the fence around the camp. The new crosses were placed near the large, 8-meter-high crucifix erected there several years ago, to commemorate a 1979 papal mass.

Lavi said that the burning of the Jewish children was unparalleled among all terrible outrages committed against the Jews throughout their history.

"We know of cases of children being burned alive during the crusades, but not in such numbers," he said.

The documentation for the crime has come in the form of testimony by a Polish Christian, Krystyna Olszewska, of Warsaw, who herself had been imprisoned in Auschwitz for trying to transport arms to a Polish resistance unit.

SHABBAT BEGINS ENDS
Jerusalem 7:00 p.m. - 8:18 p.m.
Tel Aviv 7:18 p.m. - 8:20 p.m.
Haifa 7:12 p.m. - 8:21 p.m.
Beersheva 7:19 p.m. - 8:13 p.m.
Eilat 7:11 p.m. - 8:14 p.m.

Clinton to provide video testimony in Lewinsky case

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bill Clinton has agreed to break six months of silence and provide videotaped testimony about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, as embarrassing details emerged regarding material the former White House

intern is providing to prosecutors. Two legal sources said attorneys for Lewinsky provided prosecutors a dress that she says is stained from an encounter with the president.

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NEWS

in brief

Officer critically injured in tank flip

An IDF officer was critically injured yesterday when his tank flipped over during an exercise in the Jordan Valley and he was crushed, the army said.

The officer was identified as First-Lt. Yoel Sasson. He was evacuated by helicopter to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer with severe head wounds.

An inquiry headed by a lieutenant-colonel is investigating the accident, which reportedly happened after a tread on the US-made Patton tank broke when it went over an open well.

Sasson's Kfir Brigade was on its way to an exercise in the Jordan Valley when the accident occurred.

"He arrived with very serious head injuries. He had a crushed skull and evidence of brain hemorrhaging," Dr. Chaim Berkenstat at Sheba's intensive care unit told Army Radio. "We've stabilized him, but his condition is very critical."

Arieh O'Sullivan

Suspects in plot to attack a soldier released

Three Arab youths arrested last Thursday on suspicion of planning to kidnap and murder a soldier were released yesterday.

Police, in cooperation with the General Security Service, arrested the youths near Kfar Adumim, police said. The three denied the allegations.

After consultation between police, the GSS and the State's Attorney's Office, they decided to release them. Publication of all other details of the investigation are forbidden.

Amy Klein

Aviv Bushinsky to be PM spokesman

Aviv Bushinsky, Army Radio's diplomatic reporter, will begin working as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's spokesman on Sunday, the Prime Minister's Office announced yesterday.

Bushinsky replaces Shai Bazak, who is to become consul in Miami.

Michal Yudelman

Eight people injured in car accident

Eight people were injured yesterday during a collision involving three cars on the outskirts of Abu Ghosh.

One person was seriously injured, three others were moderately injured and four others were lightly injured. All were taken to hospitals in Jerusalem.

A preliminary investigation showed that the rear axle of one of the cars was broken, causing it to spin out of control and strike an oncoming car and an additional car.

Itim

'Brother Daniel' dies

Father Daniel, the Jewish-born Roman Catholic priest who made legal history by forcing the High Court of Justice to address "who is a Jew" for the purposes of the Law of Return, died yesterday.

Born in Poland as Oswald Rufeizin, he was hidden by Roman Catholics during World War II and converted to Catholicism. As Brother Daniel, a Carmelite monk, he moved here, settling in Haifa. In 1962, he demanded citizenship as a Jew under the Law of Return, but the High Court ruled that even though he remained halachically Jewish, his conversion to Christianity effectively cut him off from the Jewish people. He was later accorded Israeli citizenship by the Interior Ministry.

Haim Shapiro

Scant progress in Tel Aviv talks

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met for three hours yesterday in Tel Aviv, but were able to agree tentatively on only one issue: that the additional three percent of the West Bank to be evacuated by the IDF would become a jointly-patrolled nature reserve.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's personal interest in these talks was reflected in the effort expended by his legal adviser, Yitzhak Molcho, who engaged in a meeting with the Palestinian Authority's chief negotiator, Saeb Erekat. But the two made no perceptible headway.

Netanyahu apparently is willing

to mortgage his political future on the eventual closure of a redeployment deal with the PA.

With that goal in mind, and hoping it can be achieved before his September visit to New York to head Israel's delegation to the UN General Assembly, Netanyahu is relying on Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to guide Israeli negotiators toward a viable deal.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Benisur reflected the Prime Minister's attitude toward the peace process when he informed Sweden's Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Eliasson that Netanyahu is committed to reaching an agreement with the

Palestinians as early as possible. The Swedes reacted positively by asking to play a more active role in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

The area designated as a nature reserve would be in addition to the 10 percent Netanyahu already has offered to give up. That would produce the aggregate 13.1 percent withdrawal figure that has been recommended by Washington.

The Tel Aviv meeting was intended to set the stage for Mordechai's next round of negotiations with the PA's deputy chairman, Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazen.

Even though the bi-lateral talks

are being conducted without American intermediaries, the State Department is able to keep abreast of the negotiations, especially because the Palestinian side is interested in making sure they find out every detail and nuance of every session.

That is why the prime minister cannot pretend that he is willing to give up the percentage of West Bank territory recommended by the Americans, while at the same time blocking progress at the negotiating table.

Mohammed Najib adds: Nabil Amr, an aide to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, said yesterday that the PA supports holding more direct meetings with the

Israelis. "We are supporting the continuation of these meetings between the Israeli and the Palestinian leaders, and from all directions," said Amr.

"We haven't taken any political decision of stop the negotiations with the Israeli side, despite all the obstacles they have placed in order to kill the peace process," added Amr.

Amr said the Palestinians would not, however, continue the talks indefinitely. "We haven't specified a time for the continuation of these communications, but we have the right at any time to take it has become futile to take a [new] position on this question," he said.

Ex-employees: Orr was talking about reverse discrimination

By NOAH STREET

Although MK Ori Orr's slurs against Sephardim caused a vicious backlash both in the Knesset and on the streets, Dadi Swisa and Itai Malbin, both former employees of Orr's, came to his defense.

The Moroccan-born Swisa worked as Orr's spokesman for two years when Orr was deputy defense minister in the Rabin government. Malbin, an Ashkenazi, worked for Orr for a year as a political aide during this Knesset term.

"Orr made a terrible mistake," said Swisa. "He wanted to be a national hero. He wanted to bring this problem to the table and discuss it philosophically. He made a sacrifice, but at the same time he made a big mistake. Here's the problem, the public say they want to hear the truth. Orr told the truth and look at the response he got."

Malbin agreed. "He did not get a chance to explain the deep or philosophical meaning of his statements... What he was trying to say is that a problem exists. He never meant to say that all Sephardi and Moroccan people are bad," he said.

Malbin said Orr was talking about the phenomenon of reverse discrimination in the Labor Party. "Sephardi MKs expect to be promoted because they are Sephardi. The last thing that anyone would say about Orr is that he is a racist person," he said.

Describing their personal interaction with the MK, both Swisa and Malbin stated that they had spent many hours with Orr and even in stressful times they had



Labor MK Ori Orr leaves party leader Ehud Barak's office in Tel Aviv yesterday.

(Pavel Wallberg/Israel Sun)

never witnessed any type of racism.

"Orr is one of the straightest people I know... I worked with him 19-20 hours a day. I was with him all the time, through terrorist bombings, through attacks on Lebanon. I saw him cry, and let me tell you, he did not differentiate between people. They were all human to him," said Swisa.

"We rode around the country

together... Orr would speak with Sephardim all the time and try to help them out. He did not mean what he said," said Malbin.

While defending Orr, both former employees lashed out at the Labor Party and the current situation. "Sephardim hate Ashkenazim as much as the Ashkenazim hate Sephardim. 50 years have gone by and we see very little change, but nobody wants to discuss it. There

are 120 members sitting in the Knesset and they all live with this lie," said Swisa.

"All these people are liars," continued Swisa. "Why do you think Labor appointed Raanan Cohen as an MK? Because he's an intellectual? No, because he is Iraqi. The same goes for Ben-Ami - Labor picked him because he is Sephardi."

"This is an issue that is present

in Israeli society, an issue that must be addressed," said Malbin. "The root of this problem has never been taken care of. All of the mess around what he said makes us forget so quickly that there is a serious problem. The party members are very hypocritical. So many MKs, unimportant MKs, are starting to open their mouths because the cameras are on them."

יד הרב פיטון

The 40th Kinnus Torah She'B' Al Peh will be devoted this year to the subject: "Haverim Kol Yisrael" -

Mutual Accountability and Love of Israel in the Halacha

The conference will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 3-5, at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. in the conference hall of Mosad Harav Kook, Jerusalem.

Opening Session:
Monday, August 3, (11 Menahem-Av 5758) at 6 p.m.
Shiurim:
Rabbi Ovadia Yosef
Chief Rabbi, Rabbi I. Lau
Chief Rabbi and Rishon Lezion, Rabbi E. Bakshi-Doron
Introductory Remarks: Dr. Yitzhak Raphael

Tuesday, August 4, 6 p.m.
Guest Lecturer, Rabbi Aharon Soloveitchik,
"Tolerance in Halacha"
The public is invited. Separate seating for women.

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Fr. Juan Julio Wicht, S.J.

Opening Remarks:
Hon. Jaime Stiglich, Ambassador of Peru
Prof. Daniel Schydlowsky, Governor, B'nai B'rith World Center
Tuesday, August 4, 1998 at 8 p.m.
Beit Shalom, 20 Ahad Ha'am St., Jerusalem
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On December 17, 1996, Fr. Juan Julio Wicht, a Jesuit Priest from Lima, Peru, was taken hostage, along with 500 others, by Tupac Amaru terrorists at the residence of the Japanese ambassador to Peru. Though the terrorists sought to release him several times, Fr. Wicht insisted on staying to serve the spiritual and emotional needs of the hostages until the end of the siege by military action.

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The Temple Mount?

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discusses with her guests the topic:
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Despite the hypocrisy of so-called "allies" (or "all lies") who pressure Israel to concede more of its land to Chief P.L.O. terrorist, Yasser Arafat, while turning a blind eye to his countless violations of the Oslo Agreement...

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IRAN

Continued from Page 1

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Tias: Arabs must boost military ties Moratinos meet with Netanyahu

DAMASCUS (Reuters) — Syrian Defense Minister Maj. Gen. Mustafa Tias has accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of increasing tension in the region and he urged Arabs to bolster military cooperation to confront it.

Speaking in an interview with the official daily newspaper *al-Baath*, published yesterday to mark Syria's armed forces' day, Tias said Netanyahu had thwarted the peace process because he wanted to maintain Israel's occupation of Arab land.

"I believe that Netanyahu's presence at the head of the Israeli government leaves a big obstacle in the way of efforts aimed at reviving the peace process," Tias said. "Israel is seeking to escalate tension and instability in the region. It is accusing Syria of improving its military capabilities and of preparing for war, but the objective of these accusations has become clear to all," Tias said. Syria-Israel peace talks, which

began in 1991, broke off in early 1996 without making any tangible progress.

Damascus strongly condemned Netanyahu for refusing to swap land, including the Golan Heights, for peace.

He accused Israel of using its nuclear capabilities to pressure Syria to change its attitude regarding peace talks and to make concessions to the Jewish state.

But he said that Damascus would not submit to the Israeli pressure, adding that Syria would not sign the non-proliferation treaty as long as Israel continued to possess nuclear arms.

He said that Syria and other Arab nations had no alternative but to improve their military coordination and boost the combat capabilities of their armed forces to confront the Israeli danger and to foil it.

"Israel, with its aggressive policies, feels that it has a right to arm itself and to possess advanced weapons while others do not have

this right," Tias said.

"This shows that Israel is planning to occupy more Arab lands in the future and to expand at the expense of Arabs and their lands and wealth," he added.

He also expressed support for Lebanese national resistance against Israeli forces in southern Lebanon, saying this would force Israel to leave south Lebanon

unconditionally.

"Insistence on continuing the Arab material and moral support to the Lebanese resistance will enable the resistance fighters to continue their pressure on Israel to force it to leave Lebanon without any conditions," he said.

Tias also called on Arabs to terminate all types of ties with Israel and to refrain from normalizing

relations with the Jewish state as long as there is no progress in the Middle East peace process.

He did not name any particular country but political sources said he was apparently referring to Qatar, Oman, Tunisia and Morocco, which started to normalize their ties with Israel following the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian peace deal in 1993.

'Iran would aid Syria against Israel'

BEIRUT (Reuters) — Lebanon's most senior pro-Iranian cleric has said that Iran, which is developing missiles, would come to the defense of Syria under a military alliance if Israel were to attack it. "Producing the new Iranian missile created a new problem for the American, Zionist, and Turkish policies, because Iran began to own weapons with which it could face Israel in the event of any war in the future, especially as Iran has started a military alliance with Syria," Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah said.

"If Syria entered war with Israel as a result of an

Israeli aggression, then Iran would be ready to enter into this war to side Syria according to this alliance," he said Wednesday during a weekly religious lesson. His remarks were released yesterday.

Syria and Iran have close ties, especially since Damascus backed Tehran during its 1980-88 war with Iraq, but they have not announced a specific mutual defense pact.

Iran this month successfully launched a 1,300 km range Shihab-3 missile, enough to reach Israel, Saudi Arabia, much of Turkey, and portions of Russia.

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The European Union's special envoy Miguel Moratinos conferred yesterday with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and left immediately afterward for a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

One of his main concerns is the controversial Middle East peace conference proposed by Egypt and France, but opposed by Israel and Syria.

A diplomatic source contended that the French have been "pushing" Moratinos to mobilize regional support for the conclave as an initiative that has the backing of the EU states.

There has been a vacuum since the United Kingdom handed over the EU presidency to Austria, the source went on, saying France has been trying to fill it.

He also referred to the diplomatic consequences of Hussein's illness, in "Jordanian influence has been reduced and with it Egypt is to exert more pressure usual."

Moratinos briefed the prime minister on his meetings and talks in Syria, Lebanon and with the Palestinians, Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak, said.

In turn, Netanyahu updated Moratinos "on the state of the political negotiations and on Israel's moves to advance the agreement with the Palestinians," he said.

Moratinos also met with Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat yesterday morning. Erekat updated Moratinos on the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.

Moslem states condemn Israel

CASABLANCA (AP) — Arab nations belonging to the Organization of the Islamic Conference yesterday condemned Israel for its plans on the future of Jerusalem.

At the end of a meeting of the Al Quds Committee, the participating nations objected to Israel's June decision to extend Jerusalem's municipal services to West Bank Jewish settlements.

The committee adopted 16 resolutions, including one calling on

Arab and Islamic nations to "review" their relations with Israel. It also called on the United Nations and the United States to put pressure on Israel to prevent the isolation of Palestinians in Jerusalem.

The committee also issued an appeal to the Vatican not to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said the meeting was "relatively positive." Earlier, Syria's

demand to cut ties with Israel due to the stalled peace process delayed the close of the two-day meeting of Moslem countries in Jerusalem.

Morocco's King Hassan II, a moderating influence in the Arab world and head of the Al Quds Conference, sought to block any such move, demanding that the committee statement focus on the issue of Jerusalem only. The committee included the Palestinians, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Indonesia and Iran.

Arad denies Paris peace probe

By JAY BUSHINSKY and DOUGLAS DAVIS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser, Uzi Arad, has denied a story published in the London-based journal *Foreign Report* that he was in Paris during Syrian President Hafez Assad's state visit there earlier this month and that his mission was to reactivate the Israeli-Syrian track of the peace process.

According to the newsletter, Netanyahu assigned Arad to probe the Syrian track of the peace process. It said Arad was in Paris at the same time as Assad and while he did not meet with members of the Syrian delegation, he did meet a Lebanese businessman who is said to have good relations with Assad and who has for years acted as an informant for Israel.

However, the newsletter quoted an intelligence source as saying Netanyahu, who recently denied he was negotiating with Syria, has "bluffed Arad into thinking he is serious about a deal with Syria."

Rather, it said, the exercise was designed to "scare the Palestinians into giving in to Israeli demands

or risk being the only protagonist without an agreement with Israel. In any event, added the newsletter, Assad is "unlikely to believe any statement or message from Netanyahu."

In response, Arad said: "I was in Israel when Assad arrived in Paris July 16 and was in Washington July 17 and 18. I arrived in Paris on the 19th to hear the fallout from his visit." Arad recalled that he was in Paris shortly before the Syrian leader came and returned immediately after he left. "But it was a bit too crowded while he was there."

He said Assad's French hosts succeeded in modifying his opposition to their proposal and that of Egypt that an international conference on Middle East be convened without Syrian, Palestinian, and Israeli participation in its first stage.

"They managed to move him from total opposition to mild rejection," he said.

Assad's reasoning, according to Arad, was that there is no need for this kind of diplomatic "extravaganza." He said the Syrian leader prefers resumption of the Israeli-Syrian negotiations "in the same

place and at the same point where they left off [two years and four months ago]."

Assad also was said to suspect that Israel would use the occasion "to change the frame of reference" drawn up at the Madrid peace conference of 1991. In addition, he was deterred by the prospect of "the Palestinians being the darlings of the conference and the center of attention at Syria's expense."

These assessments evidently were deduced from Arad's detailed discussions with French officials after Assad's departure. Arad referred to reports in the foreign news media which were picked up locally and according to which Israel and Syria have reached an agreement on some if not all of the outstanding issues between them.

In fact, he went on, a week before Assad's arrival we spoke with the French "about some ideas — things that could be said by Assad and to which Netanyahu could react." The purpose, as envisioned by the French, was to "improve the atmosphere." But in the end, Syria was not enthusiastic about this "and neither were we," Arad said.



Folding their tents

Members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza yesterday dismantle their tent site opposite the Prime Minister's Office as the Knesset summer recess began. The site, which comprised about a dozen tents, was set up a month ago to demonstrate the settlers' opposition to any pullback.

(Brian Hendler)

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Deri's lawyer plays the Sephardi card

Defense presents summary arguments on bribery charge against former minister

By Jerusalem Post Staff and Itim

The attorney of MK Aryeh Deri, Navi Tel-Zur, presented his summary arguments in the Deri case to the Jerusalem District Court yesterday on the first charge against the former interior minister, bribery.

Tel-Zur submitted his summary in writing and on disk. It takes up over a thousand pages.

Tel-Zur said yesterday that elements in the police had been "very aggressive" in the Deri case, because of resentment against his being a successful Sephardi, an assertion he appeared to broaden in the summary.

"Some elements did not appreciate his rapid rise," Tel-Zur said. The summaries responding to the three additional charges against Deri will be submitted to the court during August.

Tel-Zur argued in his summary that the prosecution did not succeed in proving the basis of the bribery charge.



Aryeh Deri

The prosecution alleges, in the first charge against Deri, that during the 1980s he received tens of thousands of dollars in bribes from three co-defendants: Moshe Weinberg, Aryeh Weinberg, and

Yom-Tov Rubin. This, with the intention that Deri would exploit his connections and political power in order to advance their interests.

Tel-Zur criticized the state attorney and hinted that the considerations which guided the prosecution were extraneous ones.

He claimed that for the average Israeli, a secular sabra "who for example's sake, would be an Ashkenazi," concern has been aroused about the success of Sabas.

He also argues that sometimes, the person who needs protection from the establishment is not a criminal from a poor neighborhood, but rather a success story who has possibilities ahead of him.

"He gets marked by the establishment and everyone is waiting for the fall of such a person, everyone hopes for his collapse. From the moment he is marked, he becomes pursued and weakened," Tel-Zur wrote.



Cemetery demolition

Yehezkel Nawama, chairman of the United Hevra Kadisha for Sephardim and Oriental Jews in Jerusalem, points yesterday to one of two graves desecrated accidentally by municipality tractors. On Wednesday night the city tore up a gridwork for some 300 graves prepared by the burial society after posting a demolition notice 24 hours in advance. The city says the grid was a dangerous structure. (Isaac Hertz)

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Maccabiah disaster probe set up

MK Micha Goldman to chair parliamentary committee

By DAVID BRINN

After months of lobbying efforts by Australian families, the Knesset has established a parliamentary committee to investigate last year's Maccabiah bridge collapse. The committee will next month begin examining issues related to the circumstances surrounding the 15th Maccabiah, in which four members of the Australian delegation died and many more were injured when a footbridge collapsed into the polluted Hayarkon River.

"We're not going to deal with the court issues that are taking place during the criminal trial," said committee vice-chairman and Tzomet MK Eliezer Zandberg. "We'll be dealing with more public issues, the events and actions that took place after the disaster."

In September the committee is to begin calling in people close to the events to give testimony. A deadline for the completion of the committee's work has been set for next April.

"We won't be presenting recommendations, we'll be presenting conclusions based on the testimony," said Zandberg.

Australian Colin Ellerman — the father of Sacha, an athlete seriously injured in the collapse who has become a symbol of the tragedy — expressed satisfaction yesterday at the formation of the committee.

"We're disappointed it took so long to get it off the ground, but we're very happy that it's finally going to go ahead," he said in a telephone interview from Australia.

For the last few months, Ellerman — along with other Australian families who suffered as a result of the bridge collapse — has been instrumental in lobbying for an independent Knesset investigation.

"We don't want it to be rushed like the Dotan Committee, but want it done properly and thoroughly. The terms of reference may restrict its power somewhat, but we think they'll go a long way to get to the bottom of the matter," he said.

A report by the Education Ministry's Dotan Committee, headed by former IDF chief engineer Brig-Gen. (res.) Yishai Dotan, was released in July 1997, eight days after the disaster. It blamed a chain of negligence for the collapse, including faulty planning, incompetence, inferior materials, lack of coordination between construction companies and organizing bodies, and lack of

technical experience.

Five of those held responsible for planning and building the bridge have since gone to criminal trial for causing death by negligence: Micha Bar-Ilan, the engineer who designed the bridge; Yehoshua Ben-Ezra and Baruch Kargula, the owners of the contracting company that built it; Adam Mishori, manager of the subcontractor Irgunit; and Yoram Eyal, the chairman of the Maccabiah games organizing committee, who has since resigned. All five were charged with negligent manslaughter.

The trial, which began January 20, is being held in the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, before a three-judge panel.

Earlier this year, leaders from two key Australian Jewish groups wrote an appeal to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, claiming that "a rift between Australian Jewry and Israel has occurred in the aftermath of the collapse of the bridge over the Yarkon River" and asking for an independent investigation.

"But despite the Dotan report, subsequent police investigations, and indictments... there has yet to be proper scrutiny of the actual organization and conduct of the 15th Maccabiah. Our organizations believe that the only course of action that can lead to a

healing in the aftermath of this tragedy is the establishment of a Knesset inquiry into the entire affair," the letter concluded.

Ellerman claims that the committee took so long to be established due to opposition from Maccabi World Union leaders, who have resisted a Knesset investigation saying their own internal inquiry is enough.

Ellerman says the bottom line of the investigation is to prevent future tragedies. "Our main goal for the committee is to be sure to send a message to the top officials and decision makers not to play fast and loose with the public safety of our children and that it will pave the way for the safety of future Maccabiah games."

Regarding the health situation of his daughter, Sacha, who has undergone numerous brain operations as a result of complications from falling in the polluted water, Ellerman said he hopes she would not be facing any more operations, and that she's slowly returning to a routine schedule.

"It's a day by day situation, but today she went to classes," he said, adding lightheartedly that it is a mixed blessing, since he would now have to help her with her economics homework.

Gil Hoffman contributed to this report.

NEWS

in brief

Snake bites the hand that feeds it

A 25-year-old man from Har Adar who grows snakes in his house was bitten in the hand yesterday by a viper he was trying to set free. The man was admitted to Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem in satisfactory condition. He said it was the first time he had been so severely harmed by a snake. Magen David Adom officials said that they had blocked the blood flow around the area of the bite upon arrival at the scene.

Tim

Interior Ministry's main office in J'lm besieged

Thousands of people have been flooding the Interior Ministry main office in Jerusalem this week, following a decision to close the ministry's branch offices in the capital's outlying neighborhoods.

The pressure, which Interior Minister Eli Suissa said was part of the annual crush for passports during the summer, has meant that many people are turned away empty handed, often after waiting for hours.

In an effort to deal with the pressure, the ministry asked office staff to work extra hours two days a week, but the workers, who said they would not be amply compensated for the extra work, declared a labor dispute instead.

Haim Shapiro

Peleg rejoins Jerusalem city council

Jerusalem mayoral candidate Elisha Peleg rejoined the city council yesterday, filling the seat of Meshulam Amit, who quit on Tuesday. Amit held the fifth seat on Mayor Ehud Olmert's United Jerusalem list. Peleg served as a city councilman from 1989-1993. Though he is now part of the municipality coalition, Peleg is running for mayor on the For Jerusalem opposition list.

Amy Klein

First week of school year to focus on respect

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy has instructed his director-general, Benzion Dell, to order homeroom teachers to devote their first lessons of the new school year to a discussion of the contributions made by all ethnic groups to the development of the state, and the importance of mutual tolerance and respect.

Levy said that sessions on the year's central topic: "The right to respect and the obligation to respect," must encourage the nation's youth to learn about its different groups and how they fit into the mosaic of Israeli society.

"It's important for the younger generation to know more about the founding generation, on the heritage of each immigrant group, and on the basis for building a strong and unified society," Levy said.

Tim

Ministry moves to ease black family's plight

By HAIM SHAPIRO

After two-and-a-half months of being in Israel in limbo, the family of Elazar Yisrael has been given a legal status, temporarily at least.

Elazar Yisrael acquired Israeli citizenship during an earlier stay in the country. But his wife and four children, as well as two grandchildren from a former marriage, had all been in Israel with no right to work, attend ulpan, or be covered by health insurance.

The members of the family, who are black, were converted to Judaism by Conservative rabbis in the US. When they arrived in the country, they were held for six hours at Ben-Gurion Airport, after which they were released with tourist visas.

Yesterday, Jerusalem attorney Dan Evron, who is the legal counsel for the Conservative movement in Israel, said that the ministry had told him it would accord

the family A5 temporary resident visas for two months. During that time, it will investigate the legal status of the grandchildren, who are in Israel without their parents.

Evron said this meant that the members of the family would be issued identity cards and have the right to work.

The attorney noted that the ministry action had come after intense pressure from the Conservative movement in Israel and the US. The family's situation was also the topic of a parliamentary question by MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) to Interior Minister Eli Suissa in the Knesset this week.

"It is unfortunate that the family had to wait two-and-a-half months to receive a response they should have received the day they arrived," Evron said.

He added that all the documents regarding the legal guardianship of the grandchildren are in the hands of the ministry.

IBA panel to draw up pool of female TV talent

By HELEN KAYE

The IBA Committee on the Status of Women is to create a database of talented women capable of presenting or hosting various programs on Channel 1. IBA spokeswoman Michal Meron-Shaked announced yesterday.

Meron-Shaked, whom the committee has nominated to head the database, said that the decision came in the wake of IBA head Uri Porat's decision to fire Geula Even as *Mabat* news anchor.

"Even's removal exacerbated the committee's concern about the representation of women in television," said committee chairperson Dalia Liran-Alper, who is also a member of the IBA plenum. "As a committee we will demand that Porat give Even a post commensurate with her talent and experience."

"Personally I think that it is unlikely that she would have been fired had she been a man. Her removal is inappropriate both personally and professionally and with it Porat is signalling that he would like to return women in the IBA to the Seventies."

"Altogether, his policies are reactionary and worrying. The return of [Haim] Yavin [as *Mabat* anchor] is a return to the past."

Liran-Alper said that the idea of the database had come from Meron-Shaked, who sees her task "as a service to the IBA. I think that there are a lot of talented women out there who are not from Tel Aviv, or between the ages of 12-21."



Supporting Jonathan Pollard

Dozens of youths from Bnei Akiva gathered yesterday outside the American consulate in west Jerusalem to show support for Jonathan Pollard, jailed since 1984 for spying for Israel against the United States. They called for Pollard's release in advance of his 44th birthday.

(Kevin Unger)

Tisha Be'av begins tomorrow night

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The fast of Tisha Be'av, which marks the destruction of the First and Second Temples and other black days in Jewish history, begins tomorrow night.

The date of the fast, the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av, actually begins tonight, but the fast is postponed because of Shabbat.

According to the Religious Affairs Ministry, one may not eat after 7:38 p.m. tomorrow evening. The fast ends on Sunday at 8:08 p.m.,

after which the *havdala* service, which normally marks the end of Shabbat, is to be recited.

Restaurants and places of entertainment will be closed for the duration of the fast. Newspapers will be published, banks and post offices will be open, and public transportation will operate. Some establishments, however, may have reduced hours.

Tisha Be'av ends a three-week semi-mourning period that began on the 17th of Tamuz, and whose strictures become more severe from the first day of Av.

On the fast day itself, eating and drinking, the wearing of leather shoes and jewelry, the use of make-up, bathing, and marital relations are all forbidden by Halacha. It is also customary not to greet friends.

During tomorrow night's evening service, the Book of Lamentations and special elegies known as *kinot* are read. *Kinot* are also read Sunday morning.

Thousands of people are expected to fill the Western Wall plaza tomorrow night for the readings.

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The Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University invites submission of original research for the Tshetshik Prize for Studies on Israeli Security. We will consider only studies that have not yet been published, or which have been published during 1996-1998. The study must be on a topic that is directly related to Israel's national security problems. M.A. and Doctoral theses will be considered only if they had been formally approved by the appropriate authorities (graduate schools, committees for degree approval) at the university to which they had been submitted.
Value of the Prize: about \$10,000 in NIS equivalent.
Those interested in having their research considered for the Prize, should submit three typed or printed copies of the study, by 15 October 1998. Studies submitted after this date will not be considered by the committee. Along with the study, applicants are requested to attach a letter to the committee addressing the following issues:
a. The subject of the work and the issue-areas covered by it.
b. The relationship to Israel's national security problems.
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The Prize ceremony will take place during Spring 1999 at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.
Submissions should be sent to the following address:
Tshetshik Prize Committee, Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University, 459 Gilman Building, Tel Aviv, 69978, Israel, Tel: 972-3-640-9926, Fax: 972-3-642-2404, E-Mail: jcsjs@post.tau.ac.il

Jerusalem Post Readers are cordially invited to attend a ceremony
honoring Yehuda Levy and Jerusalem Post readers
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The ceremony will be held on Sunday, August 23, 1998, at 9:00 a.m., in the Jerusalem Forest, in the presence of Jewish National Fund officials.
Please call Beverlee or Judy at 02-537 6528, no later than August 10, 1998, to arrange your free transportation from Jerusalem. Light refreshments will be provided. Space is limited.

The shuffle as art

Ours is the Giving Age. Prime Minister Tony Blair told Britons last year. This week he shuffled his pack of ministers, proving not only that Blair giveth, but he also taketh away. Britons love cabinet reshuffles. While a prime minister's concern is the art of shuffling, it is the The Shuffle as Art that fills television screens and newspaper pages.

If Buggins is in, and Huggins is out, and Huggins moves sideways, what does it say about the prime minister (decisive or panicky)? What are the chances Buggins, Huggins, or Huggins will one day fill the prime ministerial chair? (Zero.)

Somewhere in a business section on Page 47, there may be an item on what it means for the country. (Nothing.)

Few shuffles live up to the high drama of the Night of the Long Knives decades ago, when the late Harold Macmillan hurled most of the rascals in his cabinet into outer darkness in one night of slaughter. Bloodstains lay on the carpet for years.

Wee beasties

Margaret Thatcher had her team so cowed that ministers came humbly when summoned and went to the slaughter with scarcely a whimper when dismissed. Under her Robert Burns's "Ode to a Mouse" — "Wee sleekit cow'rin tim'rous beastie, O what a panic's in thy breastie" — could well have been titled Ode to a Minister.

Blair's dismissal of four ministers so early in the government's term was quite bold, though the scalpel operation was not bloody enough to merit a "night of the short knives" cliché.

The Hatcher was one of the few British leaders to have donated a new word to the language — Thatcherism. We have seen no sign yet of Blairism, but this week "Blairite" made frequent appearances in reports of the government reshuffle.

That, in a word, was the gist of what the cabinet reshuffle meant to the British media, though they babbled millions of words to say it. That means Blair drew closer to the inner circle the acolytes of New Labor and Cool Britannia, and sent into outer orbits those still carrying any regressive genes of Old Socialism. It's New Improved Blairite! For Labor's dirty linen from now on.

Most of the British ministers will be unknown to Israeli readers (many are unknown also to British readers) so there is little point in listing American style, "winners and losers."

Anyone for dinner?

But, as a foreign affairs observer, I found the shuffle deeply disappointing only for one reason — Robin Cook survived it and remains foreign minister.

This clownish figure has been the one deep flaw in the otherwise splendid Blair govern-

ment. I, for one, had him marked as a foreign relations idiot when he was shadow foreign secretary and, as Shimon Peres says of Bibi, "I have seen no reason to alter my negative first opinions."

Cook began his term with a gimmicky pledge to conduct an "ethical foreign policy," whatever that meant. He came blundering through our picket fence in the Middle East like some clown turning up drunk for dinner (requiring his dinner invitation to be withdrawn.) He also bumbled merrily in India, where his unerring diplomacy failed to avert considerable embarrassment to his own monarch on her state visit.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

This week a major inquiry into how a huge British arms sale to Sierra Leone last year got past strict British laws against arming combatants in a civil war pointed all fingers at blunders in Cook's ministry. The Foreign Office accidentally sanctioned breaking British law.

Cook treated the report as a personal vindication, diverting all blame to his staff. There was a time when a British minister would gladly go down with his troops to save the ministry's honor. Not this Cookie, when it comes to crumble time. Blair should have fired him.

Man in Black

An interesting central figure in the shuffle is one Peter Mandelson, one of those Finkelstein men from the shadows, known in Britain as the Prince of Darkness. He has been Blair's spinmeister extraordinaire, the magician credited with one of the most brilliant election campaigns in history.

He has brought out some of the best quotes I've seen in British journalism in the last year — a symbol in itself of the fear he strikes in reporters, who are full of hutzpah up front, but inside are all fraidy-cat.

"Acting on a memo from Peter Mandelson, the sun shone and was too scared to go in for a fortnight," wrote *The Daily Telegraph*, explaining a burst of summer weather in mid-winter. "Tony Blair's evil twin," said *The Guardian*, "he obfuscated so that Blair could be transparent."

Mandelson has been "sinister without portfolio," coordinating government policy — a Man in Black seeking out and destroying alien thoughts. The shuffle has jerked Mandelson blinking into the light as minister for trade and industry.

He also remains responsible for a strange Cool Britannia project, a nod to his grandfather who, as a Labor minister, organized the famous Festival of Britain. Mandelson is building the giant Millennium Dome on the Thames, a project which comes under the home secretary (interior minister).

That makes Mandelson the Dome Secretary.

After easily winning MP's vote Obuchi promises speedy reforms

By BRIAN WILLIAMS

TOKYO (Reuters) — The Lower House of Japan's parliament elected ruling party leader Keizo Obuchi as the country's new prime minister yesterday, hours after he promised speedy reform of the world's second-largest economy.

There were 268 votes for the 61-year-old Obuchi in the 500-seat Lower House, five more than the number of members belonging to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, which has a 13-seat majority in the chamber. A total of 494 votes were cast.

The other votes were cast for individual leaders of the country's opposition parties, led by Democratic Party chief Naoto Kan, who received 164 votes.

Obuchi's formal installation as prime minister was delayed for several hours when the less powerful Upper House, where the LDP does not have a majority, voted for Kan as prime minister giving him 142 votes to 103 for Obuchi in the 250-seat chamber.

But the decision cannot overturn the Lower House vote and is simply a symbolic show of strength by the fragmented opposition that they can band together.

Under the Japanese constitution, when this happens a committee of 10 members from each house tries to agree on a single prime minister, having to make the decision by a two-thirds majority of the 20 committee members.

If there is no agreement, the Lower House election of Obuchi automatically comes into force.

As Obuchi was poised to name the cabinet team he hopes will pull Japan through its most trying times in recent history, outgoing Finance Minister Hikaru Matsunaga predicted that the arrival of a new government meant economic recovery was now on the horizon.

Obuchi is gambling that 78-year-old former prime minister Kiichi Miyazawa, his choice as finance minister, can pull Japan out of its worst recession since World War II.

Miyazawa has expressed his own



Keizo Obuchi, center, is congratulated by lawmakers after being approved as Japan's prime minister yesterday in Tokyo. Obuchi, 61, garnered 268 votes of the 494 votes cast in lower house. (AP)

doubts about whether he can do the job, although analysts attribute this in part to a traditional Japanese tendency to self-deprecation.

"I have said repeatedly that I should not take this post, and I could make mistakes of judgment

because of my age," he told reporters on Wednesday.

Asked if he was forced to take the post, Miyazawa said: "Yes, but I would like to take advantage of my experience."

There are no doubts about his

mental ability but concerns have been expressed about his physical strength to do the job.

However, financial markets showed little worry about the age question. The Tokyo stock market was up and the yen was moving in

a narrow range on factors other than Miyazawa's health.

Miyazawa has held 13 cabinet posts, including finance minister during the heyday of Japan's late 1980s inflated asset price bubble and prime minister in the early 1990s when the bubble collapsed.

He will become Japan's oldest finance minister in the post-World War II period but Obuchi yesterday reiterated that Miyazawa was the man for the job.

"To our good fortune, Miyazawa has accepted the post of finance minister. He is a person who has quite a lot of influence in a number of areas. He should become a good adviser," Obuchi said before yesterday's vote.

Watching over Obuchi's shoulder are a resurgent opposition confident of forcing an early general election and financial markets determined to punish Obuchi and the Japanese yen if he dithers in taking drastic action.

"We must set up a schedule for recovery as soon as possible and work towards each topic on it as speedily as we can," Obuchi said in a farewell news conference as foreign minister.

Matsunaga said Japan's economy was in a severe state but he was confident about the future.

"Japan's economy, which is now in a very severe situation, will start showing signs of a recovery in a little while," Matsunaga said, in his farewell news conference.

The naming of the cabinet ends a saga that began on July 12 when Obuchi's predecessor, Ryutaro Hashimoto, led their LDP to a disastrous setback in Upper House elections.

The result was seen as a no-confidence vote in Hashimoto's stumbling efforts to kick-start the once-powerful Japanese economy and it set off weeks of high political drama about his successor.

Obuchi easily saw off two party challengers in a fight that pitted young reformers against his old guard supporters to become LDP president and prime minister-designate. He has also survived bitter attacks at home and abroad on his bland image and ability to lead the nation.

Japan's new PM needs to work on image

ANALYSIS

By ELAINE LIES

TOKYO (Reuters) — Keizo Obuchi, who became Japan's prime minister yesterday has a lot more going for him than most Japanese may suspect.

Although Obuchi himself acknowledged at his international debut as prime minister-designate in Manila last week that he has an image problem, he also strongly defended his abilities.

"I have seldom made wrong judgments in my political career," Obuchi said. "But one thing I may have done wrong is that I am not popular on television."

Described before his election as a "cold pizza man" and "utterly lacking in charisma," Obuchi now has a chance to show the world what he is made of.

Leader of the largest faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Obuchi in just one year as foreign minister quietly presided over diplomatic breakthroughs with Russia and China that had eluded predecessors.

But the only image most people in Japan had of him until the past two weeks was from 1989, when

he announced the name of the era just beginning under new Emperor Akihito — "Heisei" or "achieving peace."

A veteran LDP politician, he became the youngest person ever to win election to parliament when he was 26. Still a post-graduate student at the time, he took his mother to Tokyo to see him installed in parliament.

A native of mountainous Gunma Prefecture north of Tokyo, he fought his way to the top against formidable local rivals such as former prime ministers Takeo Fukuda and Yasuhiro Nakasone.

"To endure and be humble is important," he said once.

Universally known as a "nice guy" with a skill for the back-room negotiations that are a Japanese political hallmark, Obuchi rarely raises his voice.

He has been accused of simply being a puppet of former prime minister and longtime party kingmaker Noboru Takeshita, who at one point was his political mentor.

Even supporters admit Obuchi lacks fire on the surface.

But there are hints that at least part of this may be a pose, playing up to a classic Japanese belief that one of the best ways to get ahead is to appear affable and not too clever.

"He seems to be pretending ignorance now. When we were at school he was active and really smart, good at making friends," said a primary school classmate of Obuchi.

He suffers from a heart condition for which he has a pacemaker, sparking some questions about whether his health is up to the job.

Obuchi was born on June 25, 1937, in Nakanojo, a small town in a mountainous region around 100 km. northwest of Tokyo, into a family of modest political traditions.

He graduated from Waseda University, a prestigious Tokyo institution, with a degree in

English literature in 1962, writing his graduation thesis on George Orwell.

An avid traveler, he visited 37 countries during his student days. During a visit to Washington, he met Robert F. Kennedy, then US attorney-general.

"He said to me, 'If you become a politician, we will have to meet in Washington,'" Obuchi later reminisced, confessing he was so nervous he can no longer remember what else was said.

His father died in 1963 while he

was a graduate student at Waseda and he dropped out, standing for parliament in his father's stead. He has been re-elected 11 times.

Obuchi gained his first cabinet portfolio in 1979, when he served as Okinawa development minister. He was chief cabinet secretary from 1987 to 1989 under Takeshita.

In 1993, he was hand-picked by Takeshita and party king-maker Shin Kanemaru as LDP secretary-general, a key post controlling election campaigns and party funds.

We regret to announce the passing of
Prof. Dr. MARGOT SHINER
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The funeral will take place today, Friday, July 31, 1998, at 11:45 a.m. at Beit Haheged, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem, opposite Herzog Hospital.

The Family

Shiva at 16a Shmaryahu Levin St., Jerusalem

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and friends in Israel and abroad
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Prof. MARGOT SHINER

and offer condolences to
Alex Shiner and the family.

13 Ohio workers win \$295.7m.

WESTERVILLE, Ohio (AP) — A group of 13 machine shop workers calling themselves "the Lucky 13" hold the single winning

Powerball lottery ticket worth a record \$295.7 million, their lawyer said yesterday. "They're in a state of shock,"

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EU envoys meet with Milosevic

By MARK HEINRICH

BELGRADE (Reuters) — European Union envoys met Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic yesterday to push for talks to defuse the Kosovo conflict as the tide turns against ethnic Albanian separatists on the battlefield.

A key question for diplomats was whether sudden heavy losses sustained by the rebels would overcome their aversion to a negotiated settlement or leave one party too weak and the other too strong for good-faith talks to get off the ground.

Deep rivalries among ethnic Albanian political leaders, the guerrillas' resistance to civilian control and longstanding alienation between the Serb and Albanian communities could make the peace quest in Kosovo more difficult than it was in Bosnia.

But hints of an opening for talks emerged this week when a senior Western diplomat said the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) was weighing an invitation to be represented in an all-party Albanian executive to carry out negotiations with Belgrade.

And Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the ethnic Albanian majority's longtime passive resistance to Serb domination which exploded into guerrilla war last February, reported progress in forming a common party front aligned with the KLA.

He spoke in Pristina, the Kosovo provincial capital, after meeting EU envoys who then returned to Belgrade to meet Milosevic, who revoked Kosovo's autonomy in 1989 to consolidate his power on a platform of Serb nationalism.

Milosevic's move nine years ago helped precipitate the breakup of old federal Yugoslavia as four of six republics, including Bosnia, seceded in wars lasting from 1991 to 1995.

Kosovo, if unchecked, could prove the most disastrous turn in the Yugoslav conflict because, for the first time, fighting could suck in adjacent countries — chaotic Albania, which the KLA uses as a rear base, and Macedonia with its own restive Albanian minority.

That spectre inspires foreign efforts to settle the Kosovo conflict. Diplomats want to do so before the freezing Balkan winter descends.

EU envoys met Rugova and other Albanian civilian leaders in Pristina, in the east of Kosovo, while KLA insurgents suffered major setbacks at the hands of government troops in the center and west of the Serbian province.

The independent Belgrade daily *Dnevni Telegraph* quoted Interior Ministry sources as saying the offensive had left the KLA holding just 10 percent of Kosovo. Previous estimates ranged as high as 50%.

Rugova demanded foreign intervention to stop Serbian forces from what he said were massacres of civilians and artillery and shooting barrages against non-military targets designed to wipe Albanian communities off the map, calling it ethnic cleansing.

US condemns action as unacceptable violation of human rights

Myanmar junta ends Suu Kyi car protest

By AUNG HLA TUN

YANGON (Reuters) — Myanmar's military said yesterday it ended opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's car sit-in protest on Wednesday on her doctors' advice, but the United States condemned the action.

The junta said it had no choice but to forcibly return Suu Kyi to her Yangon home after noting her personal physicians' advice and the failure of her physician and top officials from her National League for Democracy (NLD) party to persuade her to end the standoff.

"She may not like what we did to her now but she will be grateful for this in the future," a government spokesman told a news conference.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said in a speech in Sydney that the junta's move to force Suu Kyi to end the six-day protest was "an unacceptable violation of her human rights."

"Today, Aung San Suu Kyi, who was marking her sixth day in the standoff, was all of a sudden taken in her car by a military driver back to Rangoon and thereby forbidden from exercising a basic human right — to be able to travel freely in your own country," said Albright.

NLD officials were unavailable for immediate comment on Suu Kyi's return. But the party was due to hold a news conference late yesterday on the standoff.

Suu Kyi began the sit-in in her car last Friday on the outskirts of the capital after security officials stopped her vehicle and prevented her from proceeding to western Patheingyi Township to meet supporters.

The Nobel peace prize winner refused to budge from the spot and rejected a government request that she return to Yangon for further talks on her demand to be allowed to travel freely.

Yangon-based diplomats had said on Wednesday that Suu Kyi

was running out of food and her health may be failing. But the military denied this and said it had food and medical assistance at hand for her.

Her unusual protest sparked wide international condemnation of the ruling junta by some leading countries, including the United States and Japan, which vowed to continue applying pressure on the government.

The government spokesman said three top officials of Suu Kyi's NLD party tried for nearly two hours late on Wednesday to convince her to end the protest but failed. They then left it up to the government to take action, the spokesman said.

A Yangon-based diplomat said that Suu Kyi was accompanied by two security men back to her residence in the capital, where she arrived at 10.20 p.m.

"The government on its part, taking this initiative to break the standoff, does not have much to gain since it is not responsible for any act that a person or a group of persons does or do on their own free will," a government statement said.

"But we do not wish to see anybody's life go wasted for no good reason and that is the reason why we have taken this timely course of action," it added.

Diplomats and analysts welcomed the defusing of the standoff but said they were waiting to see if the junta might take new action to restrict her future movements.

"I think she and the party may have finally realized that there was little to be gained from this [protest]. She was also probably tired after the car sit-in for so many days," said a Yangon-based diplomat.

"It also could have been her plan to protest until the ASEAN meeting with its dialogue partners in Manila ended. But more importantly it will be interesting to see whether after this, the government

will restrict her movements," he said.

Suu Kyi's protest generated world attention as it took place during meetings of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers and the grouping's dialogue partners in Manila, which ended on Wednesday.

The government said she was stopped because she did not have her security team with her and it was concerned she might be harmed by anti-government elements.

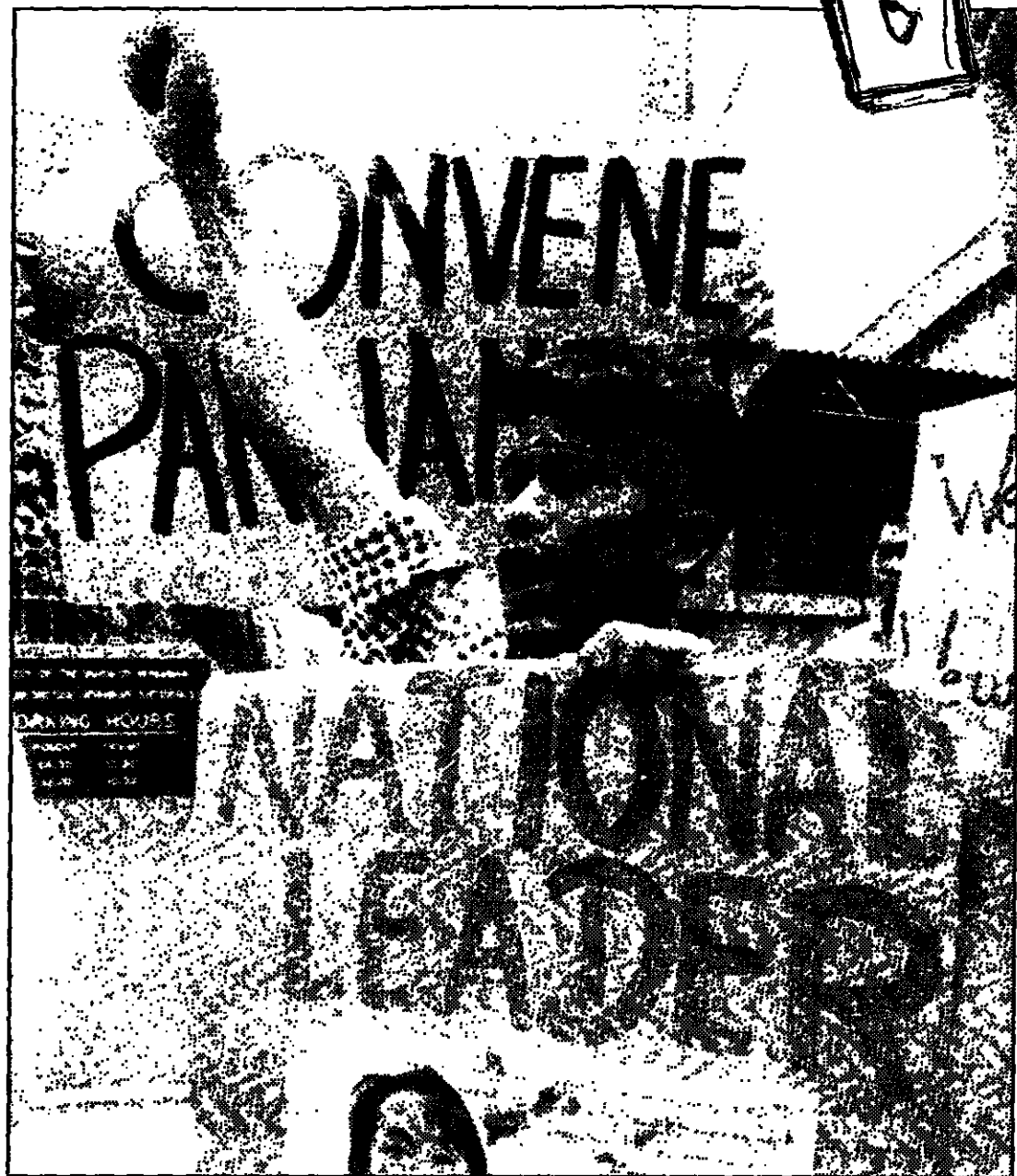
The government has also accused Suu Kyi of trying to foment dissent ahead of the planned reopening next month of universities and other institutions closed in December 1996 due to student unrest.

Tensions between the junta and the NLD escalated recently after Suu Kyi urged the government to convene by August 21 a parliament comprising members elected in May 1990. The NLD swept that poll but the military ignored the result.

The Alternative ASEAN Network, a human rights group critical of the Myanmar junta, welcomed Suu Kyi's return home and said she had made her point to the world about the military's curbs on her and the NLD's movements and activities.

"We are very relieved that for the sake of her health she has come back. We think it is unacceptable that elected representatives in Burma (Myanmar) are not allowed freedom of movement," said the group's co-ordinator Debbie Stothard.

"The point has been made. She was representing the aspirations of millions of freedom-loving people in Burma." The Network hoped the military would now allow Suu Kyi greater freedom of movement and that international pressure on the junta would inspire it to resume dialogue with Suu Kyi and the opposition.



An exiled student from Myanmar was among protesters yesterday outside that country's embassy in Bangkok who condemned the barring of opposition leader Suu Kyi from traveling outside of Yangon. (AP)

Cambodian opposition supporters flee rural areas for capital

By GRANT PECK

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Scores of opposition supporters from Cambodia's rural areas have fled to the capital and taken sanctuary at their party's headquarters, fearing revenge from the ruling party after last Sunday's election.

Many say their lives or livelihoods were threatened by local officials affiliated with the Cambodian People's Party of strongman Hun Sen, which is winning as votes are slowly counted.

The problem has been all but ignored by the hundreds of Western election observers who came and quickly gave the polls a more or less clean bill of health. Only a small, independent Asian election observer group has highlighted the issue.

The party workers, who refused to give their names or have their pictures taken for fear of retaliation, were huddled yesterday at the headquarters of the Sam Rainsy Party when visited by an Associated Press reporter.

"I am from Takeo province, and I have a lot of problems," said one young man.

He was one of several dozen people, mostly men in their 20s and 30s, who had fled to the party compound after being terrorized at home by the police — who are controlled by Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party — and other local powers.

"Their lives will be uprooted for at least the next five years," said Theary Seng, a Cambodian-American law student from the University of Michigan working

with the party over the summer. "For them to be in an opposition party means life or death." A foreign human rights worker, speaking on condition of anonymity, said independent organizations were trying to investigate the claims but the scale was too great.

About 20 people arrived yesterday morning alone. One woman was in hysterics: she is a party activist whose husband was killed in political violence last year.

Police surrounded her house after the election. She left her five children behind with her mother-in-law.

The young man from Takeo, southwest of Phnom Penh and a Hun Sen stronghold, said local officials first became angry with him during the campaign when he attracted supporters for his party,

headed by former finance minister Sam Rainsy.

The man left his mother's home well before the election, because police were trying to "catch" him. In the campaign, the police were often accused of taking part in violence, including murder, and intimidation against the opposition.

The man said that after the election, local officials threatened to kill representatives of his party and FUNCINPEC, the other main opposition grouping.

"So far, they just speak, but not kill yet," he said.

Another man, from Kandal province, said he was threatened with death before and after Sunday's polls. During the voting, he saw officials guide the hands of elderly voters to check the box for the ruling party.

Greek, Turkish troops exchange fire at border

ATHENS (Reuters) — Greek and Turkish soldiers exchanged fire Wednesday on the banks of a river dividing the two countries but nobody was hurt, officials from both countries said yesterday.

The Greek army said a Greek border patrol returned fire after Turkish troops shot in its direction on Wednesday afternoon.

"There was no injury during the exchange of fire. The issue is under investigation," the statement said.

But Turkey's foreign ministry said the Greeks had fired first.

"Turkish guards were first verbally abused by a patrol on the Greek side, then fired upon. Following this, the Turkish soldiers responded by returning fire," it said in a written statement.

"We condemn this unacceptable behavior and invite Greek border authorities to take measures to prevent a recurrence of this kind of dangerous behavior," it said.

Turkey's state-run Anatolian News Agency said the Greek troops had appeared drunk and that nobody was injured on the Turkish side. The shots could be heard in two Turkish villages.

The river, known as Evros in Greek and Meric in Turkish, runs through the Thrace region and forms the only land border between the countries.

Tension between the traditional rivals sometimes leads to shooting incidents. Greek coast guard boats sometimes chase away Turkish boats they believe are violating Greek waters.

Greek coast guard vessels fired warning shots on Monday at a flotilla of Turkish fishing boats near the eastern Aegean Sea island of Chios.

Greece and Turkey have long been at odds over territorial rights in the Aegean, the divided island of Cyprus and minority issues.

UK court clears teenager 40 years after hanging

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain's appeal court yesterday cleared a "simple minded teenager" hanged 45 years ago for the murder of a policeman, after the country's longest-running and most controversial miscarriage of justice.

Three of Britain's top judges said Derek Bentley, who was 19 when he died but had a mental age of only 11, had not had a fair trial and should never have been hanged.

Bentley played no direct part in the 1952 killing, but was found guilty, largely because police

alleged he had shouted "let him have it, Chris," to a younger friend who shot one policeman dead and wounded another.

Police had caught Bentley and Christopher Craig trying to break into a sweet warehouse and were chasing them across a rooftop when the killing took place.

Craig was only 16 at the time, too young to receive the death sentence, and so he was jailed instead. He served just 10 years.

The appeal court judges concluded that Bentley had never said the incriminating words "let him

have it, Chris" and didn't even know his robbery accomplice had a gun.

They also said the jury had never been told that Bentley was mentally retarded and suffered from epilepsy.

The conviction was "such as to deny the appellant that fair trial which is the birthright of every British citizen," Judge Thomas Bingham said in the court ruling.

"It must be a matter of profound and continuing regret that the misjudgment occurred," the ruling added.

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STATE OF ISRAEL
Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL
Immigration and Absorption Dept.

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Immigrant Students and Returning Minors

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Those entitled:

- Students who immigrated after April 1, 1997.
- Students who meet the Administration's conditions with regard to rights.
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TEL AVIV — 6 Esther Hamalka, Min. of Immigrant Absorption	Tel. 03-527 0829
HAIFA — 7 Pei-Yam, Min. of Immigrant Absorption	Tel. 04-868 1345
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Sharansky's true interest

As someone who personally suffered under the distortions and deprivations of a communist economy, no one has had to convince Natan Sharansky of the virtues of free markets. As industry and trade minister, Sharansky is working to slash regulations, ditch trade barriers, and break up monopolies. All this makes his decision to clamor on to the populist bandwagon with Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel's critics all the more disappointing.

In a press conference on Wednesday, Sharansky said, "Just as in communist countries, one man [Frenkel] - who is supposed to be the government's economic adviser - makes the decisions, while the ministers can at most give him advice." Sharansky praised Frenkel's sticking power and even compared it to his own experience as a Soviet dissident - both he and Frenkel withstood withering criticism at home, with messages of support coming mainly from American Jews. But the message was clear: the government needs to impress upon Frenkel the need to lower interest rates, and Frenkel has to listen.

By painting Frenkel as an economic dictator, calling for the creation of a board of governors to dilute his power, and demanding a real interest rate reduction of 3.5 - 4 percent over the next year, Sharansky came perilously close to questioning the independence of the central bank.

With the May provisional figure for unemployment at 9.3 percent - representing 210,000 jobless Israelis - Sharansky's frustration is understandable. The question is whether Frenkel's tight monetary policy is really the culprit, and whether he is really abusing his economic power.

Sharansky's main argument, backed by genuine concern over unemployment and by the bevy of industrialists at his door, is that unemployment can be fought by being soft on inflation. Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who has called for an emergency cabinet discussion on unemployment, has expressed this line of thinking most directly: "It is better to have 1% less unemployment, even at the expense of 1% more inflation and 1% more deficit in the state budget." Though Sharansky is not suggesting increasing the deficit, he is opposing efforts to reduce it further, and he is subscribing to the notion that letting inflation slip upward is acceptable to reduce unemployment. In essence, Sharansky is trying to cheat on the Frenkel economic diet: he agrees with the long-term goals, but he would rather get there more slowly and

be less hungry along the way.

The problem with Sharansky's model, not to mention those ministers who would open the flood gates of fiscal irresponsibility, is that inflation is not a piggy bank that can be readily turned on and off. Further, as Frenkel frequently points out, inflation does not create jobs. Even if lowering interest rates precipitously were to cause a short term increase in growth, the price could be never reaching the promised land of long-term price stability and sustainable economic growth.

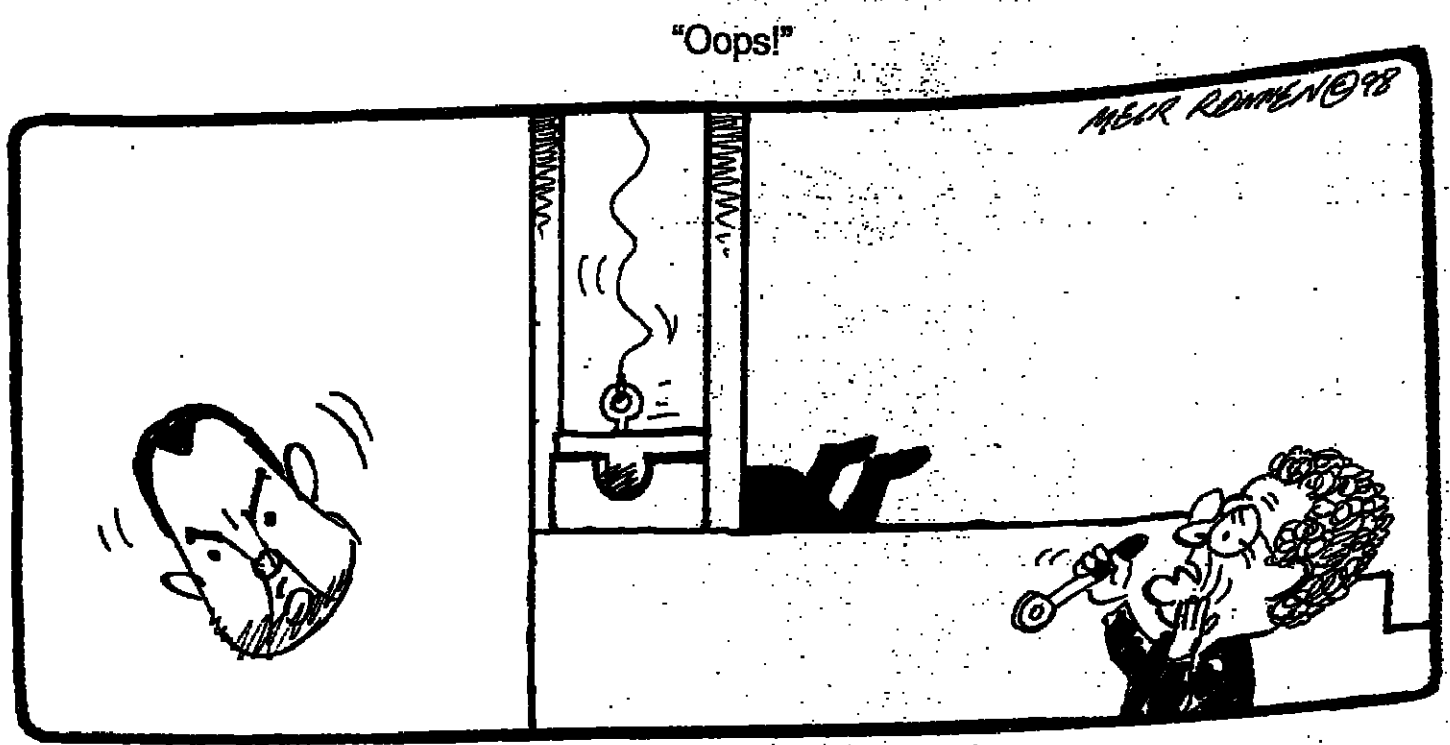
Sharansky, of all people, should be most sensitive to not jeopardizing Israel's long-term economic goals. His argument that Israel cannot afford high unemployment, because it is devastating to the national goal of increasing aliyah, cuts both ways. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Sharansky's dream of attracting another million immigrants over the next decade depends upon sticking with the known path to lasting prosperity.

To his credit, Sharansky's strong words were not limited to Frenkel, but to the government itself, pledging that both of his party's ministers would vote against the 1999 budget unless it is transformed into a "growth" budget. According to Sharansky, infrastructure spending actually shrunk by 12 percent in 1997, and that must be increased dramatically in 1999. By infrastructure, Sharansky means both physical and human - roads and retraining, bridges and books.

In this quest, he has an ally in Frenkel and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, who have been calling for such a shift in spending for some time. But unlike them, Sharansky has the political base that could be critical to actually making such changes happen. Threatening to oppose the budget is a good start, but Sharansky should go further: he should organize the smaller parties to collectively make sacrifices to contribute to long term growth.

Sharansky should work to convince Shas, Geshet, and others that the weaker sectors have the greatest interest in a stable, high-growth, low-inflation economy, and that the only way to achieve it is if together they restructure the budget. The alternative is these same parties competing for the prize for who can more vociferously resist sensible policies for political gain, but at their own constituency's expense. Sharansky is the only force within the government who can conceivably create such a coalition: he should concentrate on that effort, rather than attacking Frenkel.

OPINION



Don't desert the desert

The cat's out of the bag. Most of the difference between a redeployment of 9 percent and one of 13% is the Judean Desert.

For months, a debate has been raging about whether the second redeployment from Judea and Samaria should encompass nine or 13% of the area. Even though it was an abstract debate, quite a bit of heat was generated.

Proponents of the larger withdrawal, holding out apocalyptic visions of what was likely to happen if a deal was not quickly closed with Yasser Arafat, insisted it was not reasonable to argue that Israel's security would be jeopardized by the addition of a few percentage points.

As long as the public could not make the connection between the abstract percentages and real parts of the Land of Israel that were to be turned over to Arafat's control, this sounded almost reasonable. After all, why disappoint Arafat and his supporters all over the world for a puny 4%?

The more reticent insisted that Arafat must formally delete the paragraphs of the Palestinian Covenant that call for the destruction of Israel before we agree to the additional 4% withdrawal.

But what about now? Now we can look at a map and

see what is at stake. Now we know that in those hotel rooms in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, they're talking about the Judean Desert. Now we know that Israeli negotiators are offering to give up control over the area overlooking the Dead Sea that was supposed to be the buffer separating the Palestinian state-to-be and the Arab states to the east.

MOSHE ARENS

to mobilize international support for Israel's position nor to protect Israel's interests in these crucial negotiations. Three basic assumptions should serve as the foundation for Israel's negotiating strategy: • A Palestinian state under Yasser Arafat's leadership in effect already exists. The present negotiations, although ostensibly

Giving up part of the Judean Desert is inimical to Israel's basic interests. Moreover, it will do nothing to improve the well-being of the Palestinians.

Now we know that the 13% withdrawal plan is inimical to Israel's basic interests. The attempt to sweeten this poison pill by having Arafat agree to turn the area into a "nature reserve" is nothing more than an insult to the intelligence of the Israeli public.

IT IS not at all clear what is the conceptual framework underlying Israel's negotiating strategy, or even that such a framework exists. Stalling for time so as to eventually give in to the demands of the Palestinians cannot be counted on

dealing only with temporary arrangements leading up to negotiations for a permanent settlement, are basically determining the borders of the Palestinian state.

• Areas turned over to Palestinian control as part of a second or third redeployment will remain permanently under Palestinian control. This is equally true for the areas already turned over to the Palestinians under the Oslo Accords.

• Areas densely populated by Palestinians will eventually be

part of the Palestinian state, whether or not control is ceded to the Palestinians under the interim arrangements.

Based on these assumptions, it is clear that if we do not want to return to the 1967 borders, sparse, sparsely populated areas like the Judean Desert and the Jordan Valley should not be turned over to Palestinian control. Meeting some "fixed percentage target" by conceding control of the Judean Desert may bring immediate relief from current diplomatic pressures, but will only make Israel's position more difficult in the ensuing negotiations, and permanently cripple the State of Israel.

What's more, Palestinian control over the Judean Desert will contribute nothing to the well-being of the Palestinian population.

Therefore, though Israel has every right to insist that the Palestinians uphold the commitment they made in the Oslo Accords to delete the offensive passages in the Palestinian Covenant, it would be downright stupid to offer them the Judean Desert in return.

Hopefully the ministers and MKs who have been beating their way to Arafat's door and competing for an opportunity to be photographed with him will keep this in mind.

Keeping Iran in check

GERALD M. STEINBERG

and technological development centers, prestigious research institutes, state-owned firms, and universities were under criminal investigation.

The evidence indicated that these enterprises attempted to export dual-use technologies in violation of the regulations. These regulations were strengthened recently, following the Russian government's acceptance of the terms of the Missile Technology Control Regime and the various nuclear

Eastern stability but also be a threat to Russian interests.

Since the US began to pressure Moscow to end its cooperation with Iran, the Russian government has stonewalled, while the Clinton administration (ignoring the CIA reports on the Iranian program) was reluctant to confront Yeltsin.

When the evidence increased, and the pressures for action grew, the Russian government announced that a few Iranian agents had been arrested for

With a combination of consistent American pressure and a serious Russian crackdown on technology transfer, Iran might be held just short of the goal line for more than a few months

supplier regulations. Perhaps more importantly, this high level commission is reported to be preparing comprehensive export control legislation to tighten the rules and their implementation.

DESPITE what appears to be an important improvement in Russia's non-proliferation policies, critics will have a solid basis for urging caution. The Russian announcement came just before the US Congress was about to override a presidential veto on legislation that would have imposed sanctions on a larger number of Russian firms.

The timing indicates that the change in policy was motivated by the effort to avoid sanctions, rather than a sudden realization that the assistance provided to Iran would endanger not only Middle

attempting to obtain illegal technologies, and that they had been expelled. At the time, the Russian firms and institutes involved in the transfer of technology were not restrained, and the close relations with Iran were not affected.

Congress, encouraged by Israel, continued to press the issue, passing sanctions legislation by a huge majority, and over the objections of the Clinton administration. After Clinton vetoed the bill, Congress was ready to override the veto.

It was only then that the Russians began to make some serious moves, in part perhaps also motivated by the fear that the US would block emergency IMF loans that Russia desperately needed. Moscow realized that without clear action regarding Iran, it might lose the \$11 billion bail-out that was required to pre-

vent economic catastrophe.

However, those who believe that this last-minute conversion is only a temporary measure to avoid sanctions note that the Russian government has only announced the opening of investigations, and has not produced any findings or penalties yet.

While the official announcement names nine firms and institutes, US and Israeli intelligence indicate that 20 organizations have been involved in the transfer of dual-use or military technology to Iran.

As a result of these uncertainties, it would be a mistake to allow the Iranian missile test to lead to a flagging of the pressure on Russia.

Indeed, in a recent meeting with Russian security officials, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai demanded that Moscow must "immediately and unequivocally stop" the flow of technology and expertise, both official and private, to Iran's ballistic missile development projects.

A similar firm message from US Vice President Al Gore, who is coordinating the Clinton administration's discussions with Moscow on this issue is also vital. The administration performance on this issue has been less than stellar, and Iran was allowed to advance while the US government prevaricated. Now, it will require a much greater effort to stop the Iranian program.

The Iranian test demonstrated that this is not simply a threat to Israeli security, but affects the vital national interests of other US allies, including Turkey and Saudi Arabia (which provides bases for the US military). And the next version, known as the Shihab 4, will be able to reach into the heart of Europe and Russia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AUSCHWITZ CROSSES

Sir, - The statement by Miles Lerman, chairman of the US Holocaust Memorial Council, on the recent placement of the 50 new crosses at Auschwitz-Birkenau reported in "US Holocaust council slams Auschwitz crosses" (July 29), confirms our worst fears.

He writes that the declaration he was to sign with the Polish government would prohibit "the introduction of any buildings or religious symbols [at Auschwitz-Birkenau]."

In other words, those already there - the Birkenau church with its crosses and the cross near the old convent building, as well as the fast food restaurant at the gates of Auschwitz which the government has already approved - would remain.

Lerman distorts the truth by contending that his agreement would protect the UNESCO zone. Nonsense. The Lerman agreement set a precedent for the violation of the UNESCO protected zone, a precedent that, not surprisingly,

was immediately taken up by those who put up the 50 new crosses. In effect, by blessing the old cross in the name of the Jewish people, Lerman gave license to the new crosses.

Lerman, characteristically, shifts blame for the consequences of his own actions to others, in this case, those he calls "extremists."

The fact is, it is his "court-Jew" style of negotiations with the government of Poland - his preparedness to secretly sign a document that would sanction the Birkenau church and the cross near the old convent site, and a fast food restaurant - that has sent a message to Polish citizenry: Put up crosses and you can get away with it.

RABBI AVI WEISS
President,
Coalition for Jewish Concerns-
Amcha.

New York.

ORI ORR'S REMARKS

Sir, - I am disgusted and ashamed by Ori Orr's remarks.

I am an Ashkenazi, the son of Polish emigrants to England a century ago. However, I am proud of the fact that I am both a Jew and an Israeli. In my dealings with my fellow men, I don't examine origins, color of skin or other differences. I judge a person as I see him. I consider myself as no better or no worse than those of Moroccan or Iraqi or other descent. I see a fellow Jew, a fellow Israeli, whose contribution to the state should be measured by what he or she does.

Views such as those expressed by our "worthy" MK, only perpetuate differences. The sooner we sink these attitudes, the sooner we will be a united nation able to withstand the pressures on us.

Why can't we throw into the dustbin those issues that divide us - secular/haredi, Ashkenazi/Sephardi and so on - these are purely negative and weakening issues and have no place in our society.

It is supposed to have taken Moses 40 years to mould his followers into an effective force. Do we have the time to continue to procrastinate, to have brother fight brother?

As Charles Dickens wrote: "There is good and bad in all of us." Surely we can extract and build on the good and discard the bad.

ARIEH CAMRON
Ra'anana.

JACK S. COHEN
Netanya.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On July 31, 1933, The Palestine Post reported that German citizenship was withdrawn from all East European Jews residing there.

All German-born Jews were to become second-class citizens according to a new law, about to be promulgated, which would

describe non-Aryans as "state-protected citizens" instead of "German citizens."

25 years ago: On July 31, 1973, The Jerusalem Post reported that Norway refused to allow Israel access to two Israeli citizens arrested in connection with the

killing of the suspected Black September terrorist, Ahmed Bouchiki, 31, in the resort town of Lillehammer. The two men, arrested in the Israeli diplomat Yigal Eyal's apartment, were not to be set free.

Alexander Zvielli

POSTSCRIPTS

SHOICHI YOKOI, a former Japanese soldier who hid for 27 years in the jungles of Guam without knowing World War II had ended, has died at age 82.

The former imperial army sergeant, honoring a pledge never to surrender, fled into the jungles when American troops recaptured Guam in July 1944. He lived in a tunnel-like cave he dug in the undergrowth and survived on a diet of coconuts, papaya, shrimps, frogs and rats. He wove his own clothes from strips of tree bark and kept track of time by marking the cycles of the moon.

Yokoi was found in 1972 by two hunters while he was fishing.

"I've come back to report to the Japanese people about the fighting and my experiences in Guam, because I don't know what wars we may encounter again," he said after landing in Japan.

He brought back his army-issue rifle, which he said he wanted to return to the emperor, adding: "I am sorry I did not serve his majesty to my satisfaction."

Yokoi later said he had seen reports of Japan's surrender in leaflets and newspapers scattered about the island but refused to surrender because he thought they were American propaganda.

"We Japanese soldiers were told to prefer death to the disgrace of

getting captured alive," he said in 1972.

Yokoi, who had been a tailor's apprentice before being drafted in 1941, became a folk hero in Japan and seemed to adjust to modern life despite years of living in a cave.

He married in November 1972 and traveled around Japan giving lectures on survival tactics. He ran unsuccessfully for the House of Councillors' Parliaments upper house in 1974.

Two years after Yokoi was discovered, another World War II straggler, Lt. Hiroo Onoda, was found living in the jungles of the Philippines. Onoda refused to

give up until March 1974 when the Japanese government flew in his former commander to formally inform him the war was over.

A 73-YEAR-OLD woman rummaging through her dresser came across something of a surprise: a World War II hand grenade left there by her late husband as keepsake.

Police and firemen evacuated the senior citizen's home where she lives in Fairhaven, Mass.

Her husband had brought it home from the war and left it in a drawer all these years, and then he passed away five years ago.

Ori Orr's dumb honesty

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

On Wednesday morning, Labor MK Avi Yehzekel — a sabra of Iraqi origin — entered the Knesset building and declared to the ushers: "One feeble-minded MK, reporting to work!"

Another senior Labor MK — half Ashkenazi and half Sephardi — mumbled under his moustache: "He is so dumb."

He was not referring to Yehzekel but to MK Ori Orr, who had been quoted that morning in *Ha'aretz* in an interview as saying: "I cannot talk with these people [the Sephardi members of the Labor Party faction] the way I speak with other people who are more Israeli in their character."

"Every time you say something,

Orr seems to have forgotten that if his party wants to return to power, its leaders must be careful not to alienate any group

they immediately jump, and get insulted and hurt, and start going wild. They have sensitivities and problems with honor, and that results in it being impossible to hold a normal conversation with them."

In the lengthy interview, he complained that Sephardi Israelis, particularly the Moroccans among them, did not respond to Ehud Barak's begging for forgiveness for Labor's lack of sensitivity towards them in the past. He also bad-mouthed a number of politicians of Sephardi origin in and out of Labor, including Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Orr then added: "How can it be that these people determine their political positions on the basis of the friendly slaps on the back that they get?"

THOSE WHO know Orr were not surprised by the interview. Furthermore, it is no secret that Orr is not the only Labor MK to harbor such views.

One nevertheless wonders what made this pleasant, soft-spoken reserve major-general spill all this venom out to a journalist who is also an intellectual — and who just happens to be of Moroccan origin. What was he trying to achieve?

"Well, at least he is honest," some said in the Knesset corridors. Honest, yes, but also dumb.

It is not just that such statements are politically harmful to the Labor Party, which is hoping to get the Knesset to dissolve itself so that new elections will be called; in any elections, they will certainly need at least part of the Sephardi vote.

It shows a total lack of understanding for the true meaning of



pluralism. Every person, including a politician, has a perfect right to prefer the company of "his own kind." In the case of Orr it is primarily the "old boys network" of former IDF generals of Ashkenazi origin, most of whom were born or live in kibbutzim or moshavim.

From private conversations I have held with Orr over the last 10 years, I can testify that if anyone ever questions the excellence and personal qualities of this particular group of men in his presence — he reacts exactly the way Sephardim react when they feel someone has

hurt their honor or attacked them on the basis of their ethnic origin.

From both a personal and political standpoint, accepting the pluralism in Israeli society, means accepting the fact that there are many different ethnic groups here, whose basic frames of reference and patterns of behavior differ, to the point of sometimes appearing to originate on different planets.

Every group — Sephardim and macho Ashkenazi war heroes included — has its good qualities and shortcomings, and one of the givens is that one cannot expect to

change a group's basic qualities, any of them, certainly not by bad-mouthing them, though it is easy to find reasons to bad-mouth almost any of them.

All the more so if the Labor Party hopes to bring about early elections and win them: in this situation, its leaders must be careful not to alienate any group, unless there is a very good political reason for doing so. For example, since Labor Party leader Ehud Barak decided that he is unlikely to get the support of the hard-core no matter what he does, there is no harm and possibly much

benefit to be gained from submitting a bill calling for the draft of yeshiva students.

But Orr has caused irreparable damage to the Labor Party, and Barak ought to convince him to resign immediately.

If, however, Barak decides to follow his "old boys network" instincts, and stick by his fellow officer, in the next Labor Party primaries, before the 15th Knesset, the rank-and-file members of the party should show their displeasure by keeping Orr off the Labor list.

Middle Israel

AMOTZ ASA-EL

Out of this world

Ori Orr watched the last of our platoon's Centurion tanks return from a day of firing exercises outside Aleika in the Golan, and we gathered to discuss the day's drills.

It was a mild spring day, and the serene, snow-capped peaks of Mt. Hermon shone immaculately to the north, offering a surreal backdrop to our more immediate surroundings of dust-soaked overalls, oily Galil rifles and grease-smudged fingernails.

Beyond the filth, it was the IDF at its nicest: Colonel Yom-Tov Tamir, who later became military attaché in London; Lt. Col. Emil Palant, today's director general of the Ministry of Internal Security; and Brigadier-General Orr, all huddling with simple lieutenants, sergeants and privates, chatting about everything from the condition of our hardware to the fre-

a general's ranks, looked down at no one. This writer, for one, really believes Orr when he says that his flabbergasting broadsides this week were aimed strictly at the hawks among non-Ashkenazim.

Yet Orr apparently thought he could furnish a Moroccan-Israeli journalist with a truck-load of ethnic explosives and still get away with it, simply because he had asked the guy to keep to himself those parts of the cargo which could trigger it off.

It doesn't take a sociologist to at least suspect that someone named Ben-Simon does not descend from Anatolia, and it shouldn't take a shrink to hunch that — upon hearing such a soundbite as "the Moroccans are the worst" — any Moroccan-Israeli, even a respectable journalist from an elite newspaper, would suddenly feel a tickle in the root of his tribal soul.

Nothing in our universally admired commander's behavior resembled the idiot who this week committed one of the most fascinating hara-kiris in political history

quency of our furloughs.

Though better dressed, showered and slept than us, the three's intimate familiarity with and empathy for the rugged lives of crewmen was evident.

They appeared to enjoy touching, climbing and playing with the tanks while freely conversing with us simpletons; in other armies, I thought, their equals would not have touched us or those monstrosities of ours with a ten-foot pole.

We really liked Orr.

A farmer from Kfar Hayim in the Jezreel Valley, his bulky hands and hoarse voice were somewhat offset by an eloquence, sensitivity and even worldliness — acquired during a study period in the US army — that one didn't always find among generals in Rafael Eitan's IDF.

Ever accessible, direct and informal, there was more to him of the infantry soldier he had once been, than the legendary square-jawed armored-corps commanders in whose midst he ultimately landed.

In later years, when we were militia tank commanders and Orr was already OC Northern Command, we noticed that our older platoon mates blindly admired the moshavim who, they said, had led them through the bloody days of the Yom Kippur War in the southern Golan with a rare mixture of military acumen and fatherly compassion.

IN SHORT, whether on that pretty day twenty years ago or in subsequent years watching him analyze maneuvers while moving with a pointing stick little tanks in a sand box — nothing in Orr's behavior resembled the idiot who now committed one of the most fascinating hara-kiris in political history.

Orr could hardly have dealt a more severe blow, not only to all that is evidently dear to him, but also to the uniquely Israeli phenomenon of soldiers flocking to politics. First, there is the perplexing lack of the kind of social instinct which should be a prerequisite for any aspiring Israeli leader.

Having repeatedly seen him from a reasonably close distance, Orr impressed us as a cultured peasant who, even when donning

Then there is the media savvy. All of Orr's battle-tested skills in detecting, sizing up and confronting Syrian troops proved irrelevant when it came to fathoming the power of a media mishap.

The most basic rule for a beginning Israeli politician is to avoid an appointment with the ethnic genie; any remotely non-PC pronouncement in this regard is predestined to be lethally misused, abused, and drummed — the very way a cynical Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu did within hours of the interview's publication.

For an Israeli leader to play with this devil is the PR equivalent of a German politician tinkering with his country's Nazi past.

Sadly, Orr will now have to part with politics the same way former Bundestag chairman Phillip Janninger did a decade ago, after innocently praising the sense of national solidarity which he thought prevailed in his country during Hitler's reign.

Finally, there is the political reflex. It's one thing for a Likud leader to tamper with Moroccan pride, the way Yitzhak Shamir routinely did, and an entirely different matter for a Labor MK to do so.

Strategically, Labor just can't afford this kind of monkey business any day of the year. Tactically, what could be more poorly timed than shoving Labor's head into this wreath of thorns just when the opposition was about to smell the roses of a long-sought parliamentary victory?

Evidently, this week's Orr is not the one we knew back in the army. Like so many other generals who joined our political scene, beginning with Yigal Alon half-a-century ago, Orr is simply unsuited for the job. That's nothing to be embarrassed about or depressed over.

Orr and the rest of our generals are also not suited to be bordello pianists; it takes a certain character, background and training which they lack. So does politics.

The sages said that some win and some lose an entire universe in one hour. It would have been right to say that of Orr's tragic interview to *Ha'aretz*; this week, if only politics were his native universe.

Back to basics

YOSSI BEN-AHARON

Finally, a foremost authority on defense has come out publicly and shaken one of the Foundations of the Oslo Agreements.

In a recent interview, (*Yediot Aharnot*, July 3), reserve general Yisrael Tal, who is known for his left-wing, pro-peace-process views, admitted that supplying the Palestinian police with guns was a blunder.

Without guns, there could not

ON THE eve of the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Principles with the PLO, all those who supported the agreements, and the process that has evolved since then, should squarely face some very basic questions.

What must transpire before they agree to a monumental blunder for which we have paid and continue to pay a terrible price? How long can we continue deluding

Slowly, some defense experts are admitting that the agreements reached with the PLO were a mistake

have been a Palestinian Police force, and without a police force the Oslo Agreements would have died before they were born.

Tal's statement is of vital importance. During the height of the debate between the supporters and opponents of Oslo, the Rabin-Perez government hotly argued that the PLO policemen and not the IDF would, from then on, undertake the task of pursuing terrorist Arafat, said the proponents, will do the job for us, because it would serve his interest to do so.

Since then, terror attacks have not abated. There is mounting evidence that the Palestinian Authority is supporting the Hamas terror organization. Arafat himself has openly praised Hamas suicide bombers. Palestinian policemen have been implicated in terror activities, in addition to supplying cover for car thieves, stone-throwers and other criminals.

Even worse, whenever a confrontation between the Palestinian Police and our soldiers takes place, the Palestinians are quick to point their guns at our men and threaten to open fire.

Inevitably, our soldiers are directed to back down rather than risk the loss of lives — any lives, Israeli or Arab. But the Palestinians come away with a feeling of victory and their confidence becomes more aggressive and dangerous.

ourselves into thinking that Oslo has produced peace, when it is the opposite of peace that has emerged?

No less pertinent questions should be addressed to those who were in charge of defense and security when the agreement with the PLO was being considered. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, then deputy chief of general staff, was the prominent source of support for the Rabin-Perez gamble on Oslo. But where were the other generals?

Where was Yitzhak Mordechai, who later joined the Likud to become defense minister? Why were they all beholden to the "concept" that there is no alternative to the PLO as a partner through which to reach an accommodation with the Palestinians?

Difficult as it may be, it behooves Shahak to follow in the footsteps of his mentor and admit that his advice to the Rabin government was mistaken and lacked substantiation.

Such an admission would go a long way toward mending the irrational arguments between those who call themselves "the peace camp" (what peace?) and those who consider the Oslo agreements a disaster.

More important, it would help bring about some unity in our fragmented society and forge a sense of purpose in our national policy. Together, we would be better able to cope with the immense challenges ahead.

Tisha Be'av night of 1828, the rabbi of a small town in southern Germany ordered the local temple brilliantly lit up and his congregants to attend in their finest clothes. When the congregants were duly assembled, the preacher mounted the pulpit to protest against the mourning and sadness traditionally associated with the day.

He accused all Jews still in mourning of treason and enmity toward the state and fatherland, and called upon his congregants to demonstrate by means of a festive celebration their repudiation of the out-of-date yearning for Palestine. Jerusalem, he said, was here. Palestine was now situated on German soil.

That speech, of course, was fully consonant with the assimilationist purpose of classical German Reform, which sought to create a new religion to remove impediments to emancipation.

Only by shedding any claim to Jewish national identity and all national aspirations, it was thought, would Germans of the "Mosaic faith" be granted full civic equality. (Ironically, long after Jews had attained a large measure of civic equality in most German states, emancipation was still only a dream in that southern German state in which Tisha Be'av was transformed into a *yom tov*.)

Reform prayer books were purged of all mention of a return to Zion, and Avraham Geiger, the leader of German Reform, proclaimed Jerusalem "an indifferent city," nothing more than a veritable ruin. During the 1840 Damascus blood libel, he opposed intervention on behalf of his co-religionists, lest by so doing German Jews betray a residual sense of national identity.

Since 1948, of course, Reform, with the exception of the die-hard American Council of Judaism, has dropped in theory, if not practice, its traditional denial of Jewish nationhood. However tenuous the identification of most Reform Jews with Israel — only 17% describe themselves as identifying strongly with Israel and less than 10% will ever visit — Israel and the Holocaust remain the twin pillars of whatever Jewish identity

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

remains and cannot be discarded.

Yet Reform ambivalence about Tisha Be'av as a day of mourning is by no means a relic of the past. One of the discussants at a website for graduates of the Hebrew Union College, the Reform rabbinic seminary, recently posed the following question: How should we celebrate Tisha Be'av today?

Let anyone think that he was kidding, he went on to explain that

Once the divine origin of the Temple sacrifices is denied, the Wall and everything connected to it loses all significance

the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem is a joyous day because it marks the end of the "pagan ritualistic blood cult" that characterized the Temple service.

True, many Jews were killed in the fall of Jerusalem, the young clergyman notes, but many Jews also died during the plague of darkness prior to the Exodus from Egypt and that does not prevent us from celebrating Pesach as a joyous holiday. Let not the memory of mothers driven by starvation to eat their own children, of the tens of thousands who fell before the Roman legions or were carried away into slavery, or the expulsion from Spain dim our rejoicing at the termination of the barbaric sacrifices offered in the Temple.

In this clergyman's temple, it will be theoretically possible for two people of the same sex, only one of them Jewish, to be married on Tisha Be'av. That's progress.

NOW, of course, Tisha Be'av is no more likely to become a joyous holiday in Reform temples than it is to become a day marked by fasting and mourning.

Yet the rabbi's assumption that

the Temple sacrifices were barbaric borrowings from contemporary pagan cultures — and could hold no possible meaning for modern man — is one universally acknowledged by Reform clergy and laity alike. One of the first Reform alterations of the prayerbook, almost two centuries ago, was to excise all references to the Temple sacrifices and prayers for their return.

The Conservative *Sim Shalom* prayerbook also omits any prayers for the restoration of the sacrifices and for the same reason: the easy assumption that the message of the sacrifices — the complete consecration of all physical existence to God — is inaccessible to modern man.

But if the Temple was the center of cultic practices antithetical to pure monotheism, does it not follow that God's presence could never have dwelt in the Temple precincts. And if the Divine Presence never rested on the Temple, surely there is no reason to believe that the Divine Presence found refuge over the Western Wall after the Temple's destruction.

Once the divine origin of Temple sacrifices is denied, then, the Western Wall and everything connected to it loses all significance. These are not merely my inferences. A recent "responsum" of the Council of Progressive Rabbis in Israel states forthrightly: "One should not consider the Western Wall as possessing any sanctity... The approach of the Progressive Jew towards worship and prayer is based on a renewal of the Beis HaMikdash, opposed to restoration of sacrificial worship, opposed to granting of any special status to Kohanim, and opposed to any consideration of a Messiah... The Western Wall does not represent Jewish cleaving to God, nor the experience of prayer nor Jewish thought for our times."

Perhaps we'll see soon on the Reform website the following question: Do we betray our deepest beliefs as Reform Jews by demanding the right to conduct our rites at the site of pagan idolatry? But don't count on it — the Wall provides too many good photo-ops to rile up the folks back home.

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Bar-Ilan University

announces

that the offices of the university will be closed to the public, during summer staff vacations:

Sunday, August 2 - Sunday, August 16, both dates inclusive.

The Management

Friday,
July 31, 1998

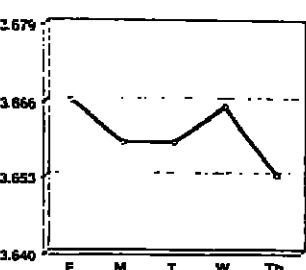
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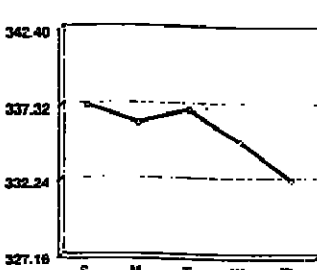
MARKETS

in brief

DOLLAR / SHEKEL

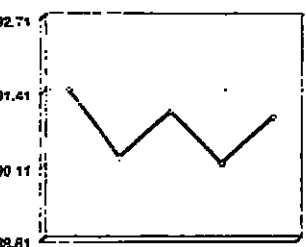


MAOF INDEX



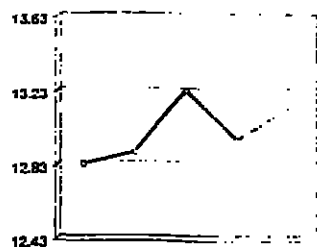
GOLD

\$ per ounce

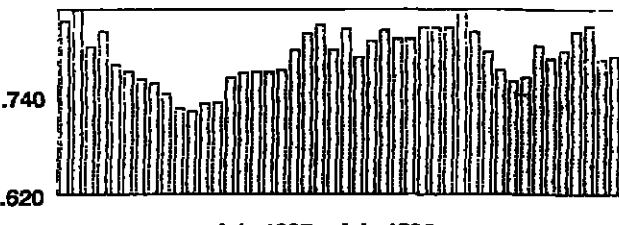


OIL

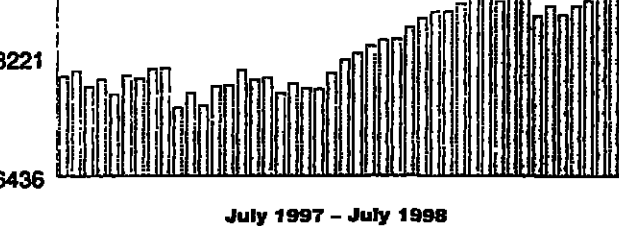
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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BITS & BYTES

By NINA GILBERT

ASI completes \$8 million placement

Applied Spectral Imaging (ASI) has completed a \$8 million private placement from a number of venture capital funds, bringing to \$15m the funds invested in the company, which has developed a technology to diagnose chromosomal defects in fetuses and detect cancerous growths.

The company, based in Migdal Ha'emek, is also being prepared for an initial public offering, according to company CEO Bob Buckwald. Buckwald and his partners in CI Technologies now retain 35% of the company. Investors in the company include AG Tech, Gemini, Challenge, Medical Science Partners of the Harvard Medical School, European Medical Ventures, Medmax and Yozma.

Last year, the company sold \$2.8 million worth of its SpectraCube system to researchers and expects to sell considerably more this year and next year, Buckwald said.

The system has been deemed a major scientific success. We succeeded in achieving a scientific goal to hybridize dyes onto different chromosomes, resulting in the display individual colors via the imaging system, including a camera and software. Whatever you see you can analyze in ways you never saw before," he said.

The system includes the chromosome dyeing kit, based on the company's patented SKY technology, a camera and software. Buckwald said the system will also have other applications and the company hopes to start selling soon for diagnostics.

Israeli start-up rate highest per capita in world

There are more than 2,500 start-up companies in Israel. This is the second largest number after the United States and the highest number relative to its population size, according to the Israel Export Institute and the Manufacturers Association, which held the founding conference for the Center for Promoting Start-up Companies in Israel yesterday.

Institute director Amir Hayek said start-up companies are "the engine driving the economy." There are many obstacles on the road to success, he said, but cooperation among start-ups can speed the process.

The center is being guided by a public advisory board headed by Dr. Yossi Vardi, one of the founders of Mirabilis. It is to give start-ups assistance in securing funding from the Industry and Trade Ministry's Chief Scientist's Office, venture capital funds, and investors in Israel and abroad.

Companies which join the center, at an annual fee of NIS 1,500, will also obtain assistance in finding partnerships with multinational companies, and management and marketing.

Security-7 raises \$4.8 million

Security-7, a 20-month-old Yokne'am-based start-up, has raised \$4.8 million in a private placement. The investors are from four venture capital funds: Genesis, the American Bank of Boston, Yozma, and Tonix.

Both the Bank of Boston and Genesis have made previous investments in the company.

Company CEO Asher Joshi said the funds are to be used to boost marketing and sales efforts, especially in the US and Europe.

Security-7's product suite is SafeGate, which protects organizational networks from hostile applications via connections from the Internet. The company's products have been on sale for a few months.

Another local start-up competing in the same market is Finjan, based in Netanya.

The market for the products is in early stage, with both companies involved from beginning.

Tower Semiconductor to work with Motorola

Tower Semiconductor Ltd. has announced that it will provide Motorola with foundry manufacturing services for mixed-signal devices. The first devices to be produced by the Migdal Ha'emek plant will be integrated analog and digital coders/decoders. Production is expected to begin by the end of the year.

"This service is consistent with our strategic direction to provide our customers with specialty foundry processes in defined market segments," said co-CEO Dr. Yoav Nissan-Cohen.

Analysts: Traded companies' net expected to fall in 2nd quarter

By DAN GERSTENFELD and DAVID HARRIS

Second-quarter earnings of publicly-traded companies are expected to be lower compared to the corresponding period last year, according to a report published yesterday by Bank Hapoalim's research department.

The earnings reports, which will begin appearing in the coming days, will show companies have been affected by the slowdown in economic activity.

Hapoalim's economists predict that profits will continue to decline following higher costs and an increase in wages. The decline in prices of raw materials will moderate the rise in costs to some extent.

The report's authors believe the impact of the Asian crisis will be limited to companies exporting to the region, while most will not be affected.

The electronics industry is expected to outperform other sectors while insurance companies, mortgages banks, commercial banks and real estate firms will report lower profitability.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Israel yesterday published its economic review of the first half of the year.

Wages in the business sector increased 5.5 percent in real terms during that period. The uptick in wages is the result of rapidly falling inflation and the 8.5% increase in the minimum wage, which came into force in

April, said the research department of the central bank.

Both the central bank and Treasury have repeatedly warned over the last 18 months that any increase in salaries, particularly at the lower end of the spectrum, will result in increasing unemployment. The report points out that the bulk of the job losses during that period took place in traditional industries, while high-tech is taking on more employees than ever.

The bank adds that evidence from here and abroad suggests unemployment increases usually lag several months behind a slowdown in economic activity. Therefore, the bank warned that even when the economy moves into a higher gear, it

could still take some time until the jobs picture begins to fall.

Economic activity during the first six months was lower than its potential level, a trend which could be seen in reduced domestic demand and a significant downturn in investments, the report stated.

The bank offered the same overall reasons for the slowdown this year as it did in 1997: the tapering off of the effects of the wave of immigration in the early Nineties; the continuation of the transition from traditional to high-tech industries; and the tight fiscal and monetary policies.

The geopolitical uncertainty is not helping the economic situation, either, the bank said.

PM still hasn't OK'd Treasury growth plans

By DAVID HARRIS

The Prime Minister's Office has still not agreed to any of the Treasury's plans for renewing economic activity, reducing unemployment, and increasing competition, a senior aide to the prime minister said yesterday.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held the latest in a series of meetings on the 1999 state budget with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and senior officials from the Treasury yesterday afternoon.

The two-hour session centered on the Treasury's proposals for increasing economic growth, employment, and competition in the guise of economic reforms, which the Treasury refers to as structural changes.

"Dozens of ideas were mooted, many of which are new," said Neeman's spokeswoman, Estie Applebaum.

No decisions were taken during the meeting and the two sides are expected to meet again early next week, according to a brief Treasury statement.

However, Netanyahu's aide said "so far all we have done is to listen."

He refused to comment when asked if Netanyahu is satisfied with the proposals.



Supporting miners' strike

A woman holds a Soviet flag of the Russian Federation as she sits on the cobblestones of Moscow's Red Square to show support for striking miners yesterday. Two dozen miners demanding back wages also protested in Red Square yesterday. (AP)

Sharansky: Israel alienates high-tech

By NINA GILBERT

Instead of becoming a center for high-tech, Israel could become the center that creates the largest number of talented emigrants. Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky warned yesterday.

Sharansky, who was speaking in Tel Aviv at the inaugural meeting for the Center for Promotion of Start-ups in Israel, said the country will lose start-ups to other countries, if research, development and marketing are not given adequate support, he said.

Sharansky is demanding a NIS 490m. increase next year to the budget base and the formulation

of a long-term policy for R&D support. According to the Industry and Trade Ministry, this year's budget for R&D is "completely gone." This year's shortfall is estimated at NIS 800m.

Sharansky was due to attend an emergency meeting of high-tech industrialists last night. High-tech leaders to attend included Zohar Zisapel, chairman of the Israel Electronics Association and president of RAD Data Communications; RADCOM chairman Yehuda Zisapel, Check Point Software Technologies CEO Gil Shwed, Tadiran CEO Israel Zamir and Chief Scientist Ora Berry.

ECI net up 36%

RESULTS

By DAN GERSTENFELD

ECI Telecom yesterday said that second-quarter net profit rose 36 percent to \$41 million from \$30.2 a year earlier. At the same time, revenues increased 21% to \$197m. from \$162.2m. in the same quarter in 1997.

Net profit for the first six months of the year climbed 33% to \$79.4m. compared to \$59.6m. in 1997. Revenues for first half increased by 18% to \$381.1m. from \$322.3 a year earlier.

The company attributed the improved results to the product mix and increased efficiencies in operations and cost reduction programs that ECI added during the second quarter.

David Rubner, ECI president and CEO, said the company got a number of important contracts for its integrated solutions, adding that the company has introduced several new products during the last quarter.

Clal takes over Ace

By Jerusalem Post Staff

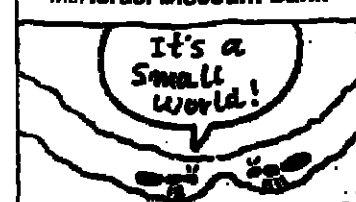
Clal Consumer Leasing acquired 11 percent of Ace-Knech-Uvneh for NIS 7.9 million, increasing its stake in the do-it-yourself chain store to 51%, the company yesterday reported. Ace-Knech-Uvneh operates 11 stores.

Clal Consumer, which is controlled by businessman Gad Ze'evi, purchased 7.3% of Ace-Knech-Uvneh for NIS 5.25m. from supermarket chain Super-Sol, while the remaining 3.6% was bought from paint producer Tambour for NIS 2.63m.

Under the terms of the agreement, Super-Sol and Tambour will have a put option exercisable until January 2003, to sell their remaining holdings in the chain to Clal for a price valuing the company at NIS 62.5m. At the same time Clal received a call option to purchase the company for a price valuing Ace at NIS 80m.

David Alphonso, Super-Sol's president, said that the deal will allow his chain to better concentrate on the food retail market.

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Isaac Harari

As if he'd never left

The bookcases stand bare and there are no photographs on the wall. The ambassador's office hardly seems occupied.

But Zalman Shoval is indeed back in town. And sometimes, like when he sits at his desk in the morning or speaks with administration officials who deal with the Middle East, *deja vu* hits.

"It was something, for us to sit down, and everybody remembered exactly what we said to each other five or six or seven years ago — which I think was good for both sides because we could go on talking about things we knew," he says of meetings held with American policymakers on his first full day on the job.

The diplomatic earthquake of the Oslo peace process occurred between Shoval's departure as ambassador to Washington in March 1993 and his return here on July 15. He knows that "we are historically at a different period" now.

But many of the same issues — and the same US officials — remain, he says.

"I don't know if it's psychological, but it feels like I never left," Shoval says, sweeping an arm toward the ceiling of the embassy office he occupied from 1990-1993.

"There are the same people in [approximately] the same capacities in the US administration — Dennis, Aaron, Martin, even Sandy," he says, referring to peace envoy Dennis Ross, Ross's deputy Aaron Miller, Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk and national security adviser Samuel "Sandy" Berger.

Shoval maintained contact with the Americans during his years away. He returned every so often for speeches at think tanks, while they made frequent forays to Israel to advance the peace process.

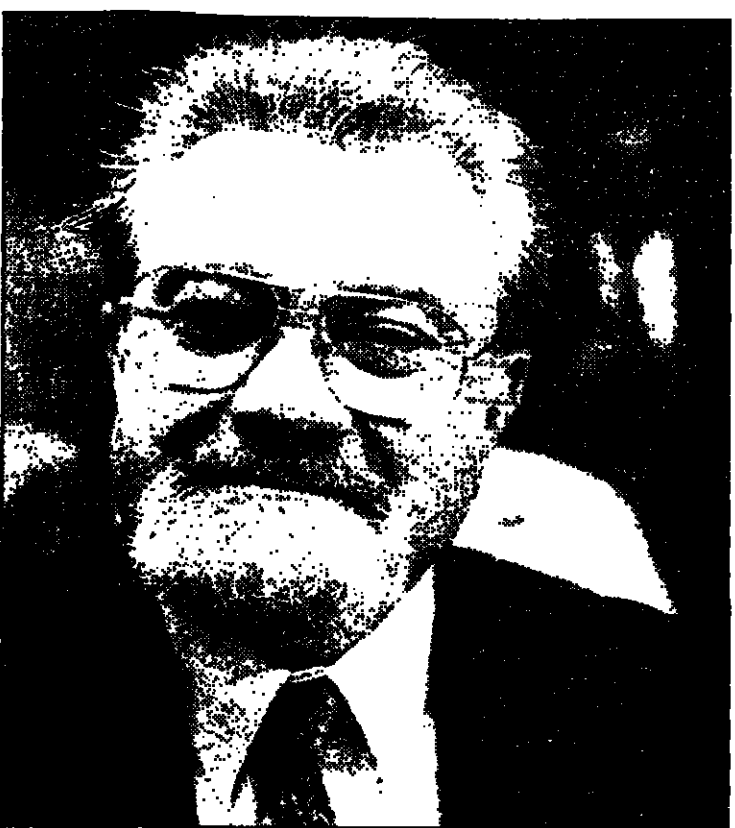
"It's not like coming to a strange place," he says.

Shoval has not yet presented his credentials to President Clinton since taking over from Eliahu Ben-Elissar, and protocol frowns on meeting with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright until he does.

SHOVAL jumped at the chance to return to Washington when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu proposed it two months ago. He denies that he had angled for the job during Ben-Elissar's tenure.

During a meeting in June 1997, Netanyahu offered Shoval the Washington post and Shoval accepted in principle, but then-for-

The man who was reportedly barred from the State Department last time he served in Washington is back, readier than ever to explain Israel's position. **Hillel Kuttler speaks to Zalman Shoval**



Ben-Elissar never enjoyed the prime minister's confidence. (Isaac Harari)

foreign minister David Levy quickly shot it down.

Shoval expresses sympathy for Ben-Elissar's struggles here and says he would not have come unless he was sure his service would be different. Yet he and Ben-Elissar are not on the best of terms. Embassy sources say the two did not speak at all regarding their changeover.

Before returning here, Shoval had to surrender the chairmanship of the Bank of Jerusalem Ltd., a mortgage company he founded in the mid-1960s. He may be consulted on long-range planning issues but by-law must keep his distance from day-to-day operations.

A big dilemma he and his wife

Kena faced before taking the job was whether they could leave Shoval's mother-in-law Sarah Mayer behind in Israel. Though she is in good health, the Shovals intend to return home regularly to visit.

He has committed himself to serving here for two years. "Lots of things have changed since 1993. [But] the contacts he has, having been here before, should bring him up to speed quickly," says Morris Amitay, a former AIPAC president who has known Shoval for 20 years.

"Plus, he's coming here as the choice of the prime minister, not the foreign minister, which was Ben-Elissar's problem, so you assume he'll be reflecting the

prime minister and having his confidence.

"He comes across very well. He's almost from central casting as a diplomat."

While he looks a bit older now, Shoval, 68, is the same dignified, bushy-eyebrowed man he was in the early 1990s when he was perhaps best known as the diplomat who hosted late-night press conferences when Iraqi Scud missiles hit Israel.

Shoval's presence is likely to boost morale at the embassy, certainly following Netanyahu's consistent undermining of Ben-Elissar.

Shoval is already bringing in his own people, all foreign service veterans, to staff key positions. They include Yossi Amrani, his assistant during the first stint, for the new role of political activities coordinator; Tova Herzl to run congressional affairs; and Ron Prossor as political affairs consul.

One vital position still unfilled is that of spokesman. The Foreign Ministry had already tapped Mark Regev, a career diplomat, for the job, but Shoval scuttled it, claiming that Regev lacked media experience.

He is now discussing several candidates with both Netanyahu and the Foreign Ministry, and Shoval intends to interview the finalists in Israel in late August before making a decision.

PUBLIC affairs consul Avi Granot, who previously served at the embassy with Shoval and recently returned to Washington from an ambassadorship in Ethiopia, said their year together was marked by a "good atmosphere," a "sense of doing a lot" and a feeling of teamwork instilled by the boss.

"Zalman is someone who lets you work, who doesn't disturb you, who gives you working space," Granot says. "I remember it as a good period. He was very diligent about having staff meetings on a regular basis, not only in Washington but throughout the US."

"This is something he has already done now. On his first Friday there was a conference call, a briefing for the consuls-general, and there will be another one this Friday."

Shoval expects American-Israeli relations to continue on an even keel despite the extended difficulties in the peace process.

It's too early for him to say whether he detects any change in the administration's dealings with Israel. He insists, however, that the seeming strain between the two allies is just a "misrepresentation," although there are "perceptions that we will want to mend."

"There is a will on both sides to do that," he says.

Shoval considers his role here as crucial in the period from the conclusion of the current redeployment negotiations and leading through final-status talks. He sees it as a priority for Israel — him — to



Shoval, who is considered very much Netanyahu's man for the job, is expected to boost morale at the embassy. (Jeremy Feldman)

convey to the Americans what it can and cannot deliver in a final peace deal with the Palestinians.

It is necessary, he believes, to clear the air and understand one another, even if short-term tensions ensue.

While Jerusalem and Washington have known since 1967 that they do not see eye-to-eye on making peace with the Palestinians, he says, those differences "never came to the fore" in the absence of peace talks.

"We are now at a period where, possibly, I would even say hopefully, we may negotiate permanent settlement arrangements between us and the Palestinians," Shoval states, swinging one leg over the side of his black upholstered lounge chair.

"Therefore, some of those differences of opinion between us and the American administration ... now become more prominent. They are [moving] from the background into the foreground. Therefore, I personally think there is a major need to increase under-

standing between us and the administration, to make it very clear where Israel's red lines are."

That said, Shoval believes the Americans "must play a very important role as mediators" in the negotiations, and that to do so, Israel must explain, and Washington must understand, "what is possible and what is impossible, and to find ways so that the impossible things do not create unnecessary tensions between us and them."

SHOVAL gained a measure of notoriety in his first term when then-secretary of state James Baker reportedly barred him from the State Department for making disparaging comments about the Bush administration.

Their tense relations, occurring in the context of the Washington-Jerusalem squabble over the US linking the \$10 billion loan guarantees to a cessation of settlement construction, were "short-lived" and he and Baker subsequently enjoyed "a very close working

relationship," Shoval says now. "As a matter of fact, as a result of that, we have established an excellent relationship," he says. "We had our run-ins. We know that. But I never took this personally because I knew it wasn't personal."

"It was because of the tensions at that time growing between the two governments, and also perhaps because — I'm not saying that this was Baker's intention — he wanted to create a certain atmosphere amongst the Arabs to get them to the [Madrid] conference table because Israel was overly popular at that time, if you remember, during the Gulf War."

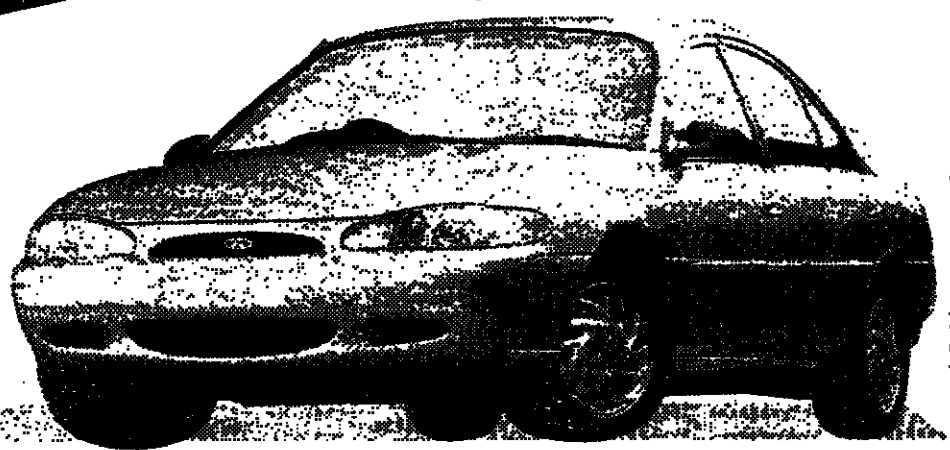
"I told a newspaperman at the time that I felt like during the Yom Kippur War, when I was a soldier of the Israeli army, and I once crossed one of those pontoon bridges on the Suez Canal. And all of a sudden a big barrage of artillery fire started. But I was never megalomaniac enough to think that this was personally directed at me."

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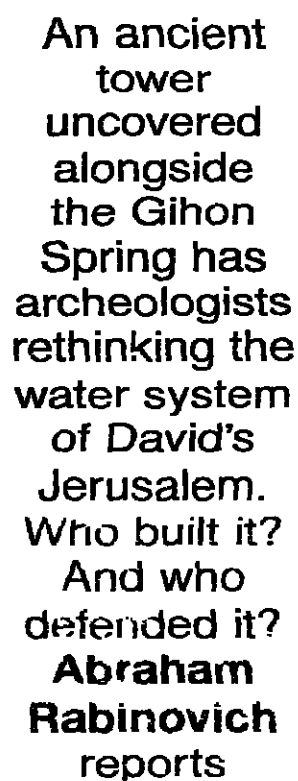
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TRAVEL WITH THE EXPERTS

PM still
wasn't OK'd
Treasury
growth plans



While rejecting the shaft's *tzimor* connection he reinforced its image as a water conduit.

shaft. With light provided by "a magnesium wire," they reached the top of the shaft and saw a corridor leading off it. Climbing over piles of debris and squeezing through tiny openings, they proceeded as far as they could before their way was finally blocked.

In the corridor they found "three glass lamps of curious construction at intervals as if to light up the passage." They also found several intact pots. On the edge of the shaft itself was an iron ring "by which a rope might have been attached for hauling up water."

It was clear to Warren, as it would be to subsequent explorers, that ancient Jerusalem had fetched its water by lowering buckets down this shaft.

A far-reaching new dimension was given to the shaft by Père Vincent, a Dominican archeologist who reached it some 40 years after Warren. It was Vincent who linked the shaft to the biblical account of David urging his men to capture Jerusalem by "getting up to the gutter [zinor]" (2 Samuel 5:8). Joab, the son of Zeruiah, "went up first and was made chief" (1 Chronicles 11:6.)

In modern Hebrew, *tzinor* is a pipe. In antiquity, suggested Vincent, it might have referred to the shaft, in the sense of a water conduit. The idea of Joab and his men scaling the shaft in the depths of the night and sneaking into the heart of the sleeping city captured the imagination, and Vincent's proposal enjoyed broad popularity.

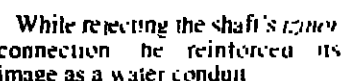
The first person to put the theory to the test was archeologist Yigal Shiloh in excavations launched in the City of David 20 years ago. In an attempt to see how scalable the shaft was, he asked three alpinists to try it.

Using special equipment, it took them two hours. Shiloh, himself a strapping ex-paratrooper, climbed the shaft using a rope the alpinists threw down from the top. "It was not quite as easy as it looked," he would write.

Ultimately, Shiloh's argument against the minor theory stemmed not so much from the physical difficulty as from his conclusion that the water system had been built only after David's conquest (generally dated to 1000 BCE). He found no ceramics in the shaft that could date it and therefore drew his conclusion by analogy.

Subterranean water systems were a major factor in the planning of fortified towns in the Israelite period and none were known from before the 10th century BCE, he noted.

"There is good ground for the suggestion that [the water system] was part of the original planning of the Israelite city of the 10th or ninth centuries BCE," he wrote.



The City of David lies to left of the shaded Kidron Valley and south of the Temple Mount. The ancients labored to protect the Gihon Spring at the foot of the City of David from besieging armies that would have been camped on the opposite slope, today the village of Silwan. (Werner Braun)

Slowly, Reich began to factor in other anomalies. The top of Warren's Shaft was not user-friendly. It seemed odd to have invested so much energy in chiseling long corridors through the rock and yet leave the lip of the shaft uneven and difficult to access.

ing point is still recognizable today. At this stage, the entire system was cut through a layer of soft *malka* stone that overlay the *mizra* stone.

At a later stage, stonemasons began to deepen the tunnel from a height of three meters to six — "I have no idea why," says Reich — by cutting into the hard *mizra* stones that underlay the tunnel. Ceramics found among the stone chips date this development to the eighth

At some unknown point after the exposure of the upper end of the shaft, an opening was cut into the bottom of Warren's Shaft from the main water channel, rendering it usable as a water source. Reich doubts that it was much used because the shallowness of the water at the shaft bottom would have made it difficult for a bucket to sink deep enough to fill.

Shiloh had found evidence that the tunnel system was still in use in the Second Temple period and Reich suggests that it might still have been used in the Byzantine period. This could account for the glass lamps Warren found – such artifacts did not exist in First Temple times. It could also account for the iron ring at the top of the shaft. The artifacts Warren found, including intact pots, were presumably taken back to England with him but Shiloh failed to trace them.

The new discovery marks an end of the Warren Shaft's role in history. But it revives, for some, the *minor* option.

The water system, as now understood, indeed pre-dated David and provided easy access to the city, unlike the shaft. The only problem with this scenario is that the entrance from this direction was blocked by massive fortifications.

As is often the case, archeology has not resolved a historical mystery but it has rearranged the pieces of the puzzle.

**it was the kind of discovery that obliges
an archeologist to take a figurative
walk around the block as he waits for
his mind to sort out the confusion**

the lower part of the corridor wall. There were no chips from the upper part of the wall where the stone was softer, indicating that the excavation of the *mugil* layer had been a separate, later stage.

Eventually, the elements coalesced into a revolutionary new understanding of this part of Jerusalem's history. The following is a condensed version:

Around 1800 B.C.E., the Canaanite rulers of Jerusalem undertook to build a tunnel that would lead to the spring from within the city walls. Construction began at both ends and the meet-

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At long last, something to celebrate?

The jubilee "festivities" have been marked by resignations, recriminations and debates about long underwear. But now we may have something to be proud about. **Helen Kaye** gets an early-bird look at the Jubilee Exhibition of Israeli Achievement opening next week

Coming through the turnstiles into the main pavilion at the Jubilee Exhibition of Israeli Achievement at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds, visitors are greeted by a birthday cake flanked by rosy-cheeked, cherubic children. "They represent the new generation," says exhibition architect and creative consultant Uri Shaviv. "The idea is that we are celebrating the state's 50th birthday and at the same time transferring the privilege of leading the country during the next 50 years to the new generation."

But despite the optimistic motif, the exhibition has been plagued by the same problems that have haunted all the jubilee celebrations.

Earlier this year, several ministries announced they would not participate in the exhibition. They

The main jubilee pavilion is an airy structure "and because it's not totally enclosed, it's a combination of town square, gathering place and auditorium," Shaviv explains.

Towards the rear of the hall, a stylized replica of the Declaration of Independence soars towards the 400 sq. m. ceiling which is constructed of thousands of scintillating water pulses. At night a laser light show will transform the ceiling into a blazing firmament.

The jubilee pavilion is the exhibition's anchor, focal point and conduit to exhibits that showcase 50 years of achievement in every walk of life. The covered walkways "not only funnel the people to the rest of the exhibition, they are also pathways to the future," said Shaviv.

The IDF has about 40 percent of the space. Its exhibits include the model of an army post in Lebanon and a memorial hall with the names of all the Jews killed by Arabs since 1978, when records first began to be kept.

Yoav Ben-Zur, who designed the pavilions for the Interior, Agriculture and Housing ministries, says that the general cynicism surrounding the jubilee, the multiple resignations at the Jubilee Association and the Jubilee Bells fiasco initially made his job very difficult.

"The people there are very nice, but they were apprehensive. They didn't believe that the exhibition would even happen, but we persisted," he said. "Once the apprehension disappeared, they cooperated fully."

Ministry and designer then worked in tandem. The ministries "told us their ideas. We did the research and came back to them for things we needed, like an old agricultural machine from a museum, or President Weizman's birth certificate."

"At a certain stage everybody caught our enthusiasm," Ben-Zur added.

Shaviv noted that participants were allowed some maneuverabil-

ity in the design, as long as it kept to the overall concept of Israel's achievements in various fields.

"The idea was to create an exhibition that would present the state's achievements in an integrated way, both indoors and outdoors. This integration represents strength and power, not necessarily in the military sense."

Other problems were limited space, or limited budget, leading to often heated discussions about what to include and what to leave out.

This was particularly true of the agriculture pavilion, says Shaviv,

"because advances in every aspect of agriculture have been so immense, from irrigation to plant genetics."

But when all is said and done, says Ben-Zur, "it's about time that this people gave itself the credit it deserves to see what we have created here, quietly, every day."

Yoav Ben-Zur

included education, tourism, religious affairs, finance, justice, absorption and national infrastructure. Some, like religious affairs, chided lack of funds. Others, like tourism and absorption, announced that they had better things on which to spend their money.

The Jubilee Association financed NIS 27 million of the NIS 60 million budget. Exhibitors had to pay part and the rest is supposed to come from ticket revenues. Some 800,000 people are expected to visit the exhibition which lasts through August 31 and comprises 20 pavilions.

Eight structures and several booths were especially built for the exhibition.

Colors were harmonized and exterior walls were barred from impeding the public's view of the whole. Even graphics had to fit into the overall design concept.

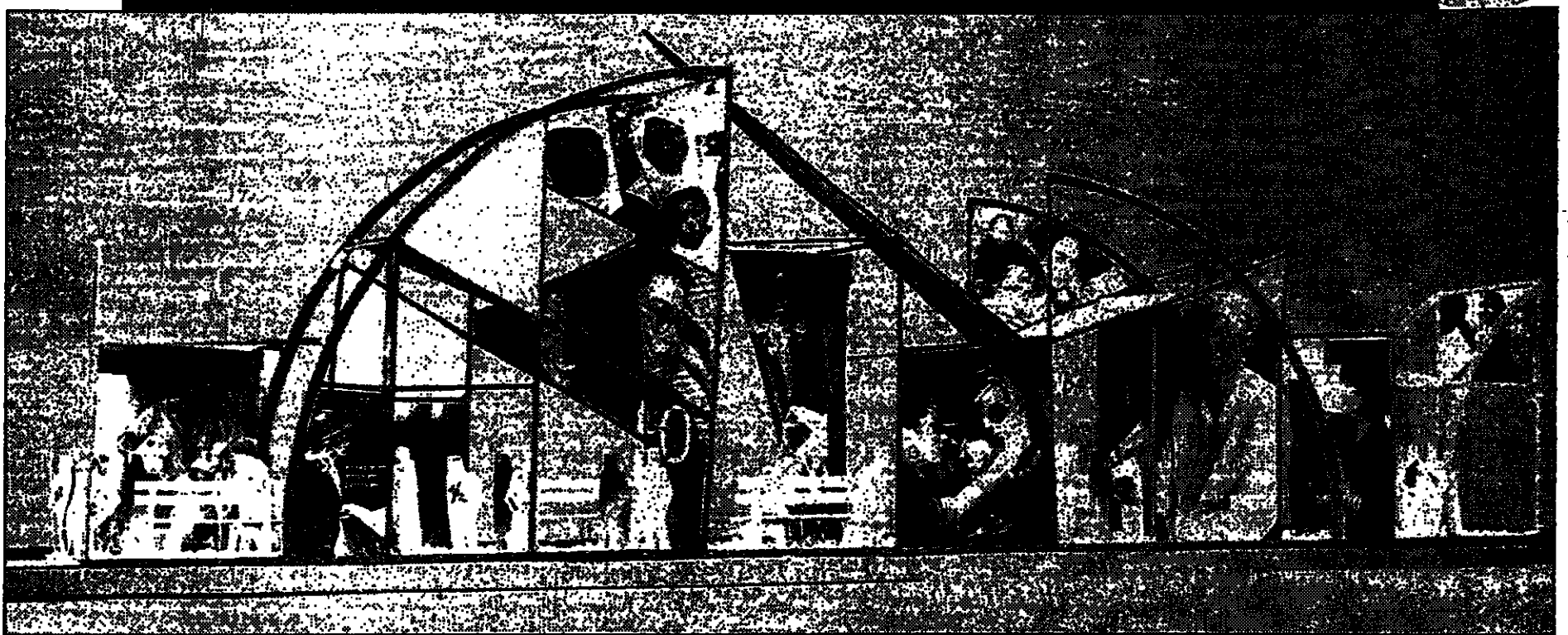
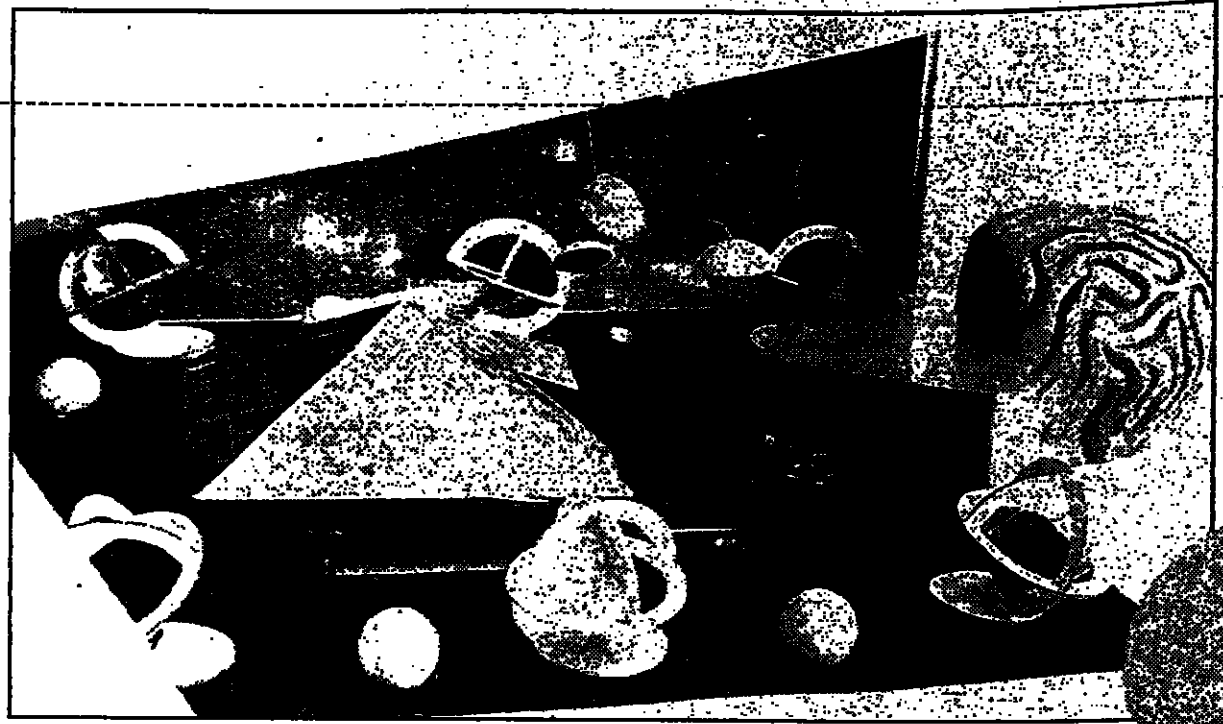
For instance, Mifal Hapayis wanted to leave the outside of its booth bare, says Shaviv. "I said, 'no way,' and now they have graphics and exterior lighting."

Then there was the National Insurance Institute exhibit which had "one of those drab institutional signs. We said no. It has to be part of the exhibition, it has to have some character."

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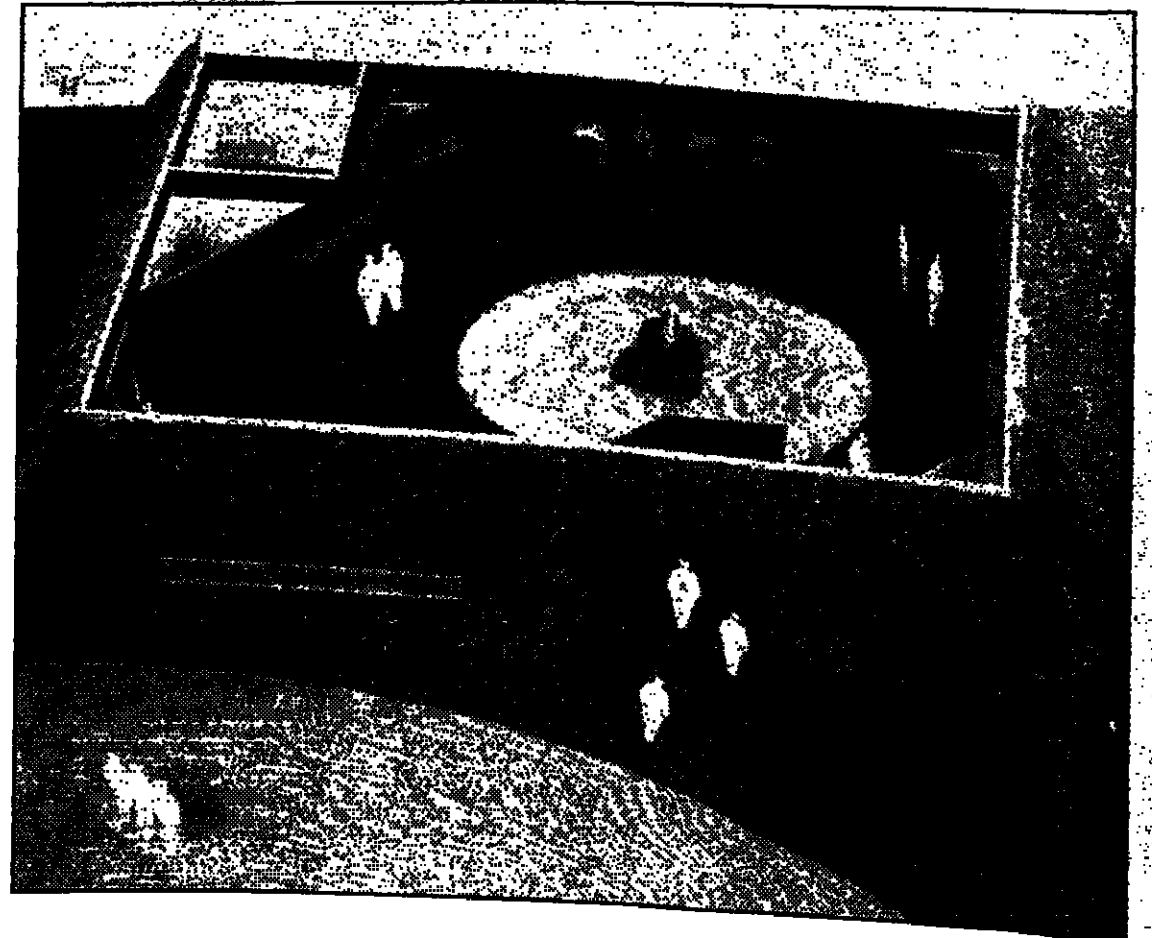
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The idea was to create an exhibition that would present the state's achievements in an integrated way, both indoors and outdoors. This integration represents strength and power, not necessarily in the military sense — architect Uri Shaviv



The Industry and Trade Ministry pavilion designed by Michael Sagi



From top to bottom: The pavilions of the Interior Ministry designed by Yoav Graphics; science; the status of women by Liora Colton; and the IDF memorial hall by Shapira Kantor.

Learning to speak no evil, hear no evil

A mighty river of haredi women flowed into Jerusalem's convention center to learn that words can kill — or redeem. Esther Hecht reports on a rally devoted to avoiding the sins of slander and defamation

The teenage girls, their lustrous hair in braids and ponytails, arrived in droves at the Jerusalem International Convention Center. Their older sisters, mothers, aunts and grandmothers came too, their hair hidden under wigs, hats, scarves, or oddly aerodynamic, peaked turbans.

It was a rare ladies' night out for the haredi community. The mood was quietly festive, though it was the somber mourning period leading up to Tisha Be'Av, the fast day marking the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem.

Vendors near the entrance hawked copies of Rabbi Moshe Vaya's guide to the proper inspection of food according to Halacha. Girls handed out a didactic quiz on Shabbat observance, covering the minutest details of sorting silverware, dishes, laundry and toys on the day of rest.

Smiling and greeting each other warmly, the women crowded into the convention center, till every seat in the main auditorium, and then in all the halls, was filled.

More than 9,000 women had turned out for the event of the year, a star lineup of rabbis speaking on the virtues of guarding one's tongue.

Those who couldn't get seats in the main hall watched the program on closed-circuit TV.

This was the 14th annual rally devoted to avoiding the sins of slander and defamation, which the rabbis delivered a program worthy of this flood of womanhood: no dry sermons, but a series of homilies and inspirational anecdotes highlighting this year's theme, "Sharing the burden of your fellow man."

Rabbi Israel Gans told of a poor young man who turned to his rabbi to settle a dispute between himself and his wife, who claimed she was no longer able to cook. The rabbi gave him two enormous bags of cooked food, saying, "Give the second one to another student and tell your wife food is being distributed to everyone, so her feelings won't be hurt." A murmur rippled through the audience, as the women nodded in appreciation of the rabbi's sensitivity, compassion and practical solution to a problem with which they could identify. Some had brought notebooks and jotted down the finer points.

For nearly three hours the rabbis talked of miracle cures, the power of prayer, the heights of selflessness and the cardinal virtue of modesty.

They threw in a joke or two to make a point. Some of the stories had colorful, even bizarre, elements.

Rabbi Yitzhak Weinberg recounted the tale of a customs official who died and was punished for his sins by having the hinge of the gate of hell stuck in his ear so that each time the gate opened — which was often — he suffered indescribable torments. Even this lowly customs official was the object of compassion, Weinberg said, drawing an appreciative, sibilant sigh from the audience.

But most of all, the rabbis spoke of the very practical ways to show empathy, the social value underlying proper speech.

"Maimonides said, 'It's in the little things,'" Rabbi Ya'acov Golinsky declared.

"Say 'Good morning' to each other. Welcome a new neighbor with a smile," Gans suggested.

"People don't speak ill of those they love; enlarge the circle of people you love," Weinberg proposed.

The presiding spirit at the rally was the late Israel Meir Hakohen, known to all by the name of his first book, *Hafetz Haim*. His face



beamed at the audience from pictures on the podium and from the fliers distributed.

The Lithuanian rabbi, born in 1838, was an ethical writer and talmudist revered and loved for his piety, humility of conduct, and integrity of thought and action.

He kept a daily record of his own deeds to make sure he had done no wrong nor wasted any time. He also encouraged the less educated, in matters of learning, observance and faith.

Inspired by his example, a group of American-born women living in Kiryat Mattersdorf, in northern Jerusalem, came up with the idea of annual rallies.

"They were interested in doing something for themselves and to raise consciousness about speech and its implications," said Eita Lasker after this week's event.

Lasker, a teacher in the Beit Ya'acov school system for girls, has been involved in the project from its start.

"Speech affects how one thinks about one's fellow man, how one relates to one's fellow man," she explained.

The first rally, in 1985, was held in a neighborhood kindergarten, where the women perched on toilet-sized chairs to hear a lecture. Lasker recalled: The project snowballed quickly; after meeting in a succession of hotels, 10 years ago the group moved the event to the convention center.

This year there was also a rally for English-speakers with more than 3,000 participants, and groups around the country have copied the example of the Jerusalem women. The rallies were preceded by a day of study, some 200 lectures in

Jerusalem alone.

At the Hanassi Synagogue in Rehavia, for example, Rabbi David Orlovsky had his English-speaking audience in stitches, as he told joke after joke while building up to his point about the relation between the high priests' vestments and clean speech.

The elaborate garments were a reminder to the high priests to take their role seriously, Orlovsky told a mixed haredi and modern Orthodox audience. And people who take themselves seriously realize what an impact their words can have.

Jenny Rudman, 20, of Staten Island, a junior at Stern College in New York who is here for a summer study program, came away from Orlovsky's lecture with the conviction that it is possible to reduce the amount of slander and

gossip, even though they are part of human nature. "It's really a problem among women," she added.

"Just because it's a women's project doesn't mean it's only a women's issue," countered her friend, Bayla Maza, also 20, of Oceanside, New York, and a student at Columbia University. "It's as much an issue for men, but [that's] never addressed." To his credit, Orlovsky raised this question and mentioned that last year a resident of the Har Nof quarter

began an annual men's study session. Lasker added that the laws of proper speech apply equally to men and women, and that they are studied by men and boys in a variety of contexts.

"The only difference when one is addressing men or women might be on the emphasis put on the ways to achieve proper speech," she said. "The inspirational aspect might stand out more in a speech to women: men might concentrate only on the halachic aspects." But at the rally, there was a clear mes-

sage, both implicit and explicit, that it is women who are most in need of controlling their tongues.

"The sages said women are envious; they did us a great service by telling us what women's failing is [so we can fix it]," Weinberg said. Dr. Tamar El-Or, a lecturer in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's sociology and anthropology department, sees an inherent paradox in this approach.

"The religious community teaches that women are modest, yet they must prove they are free of malicious speech," said El-Or, author of *Educated and Ignorant: On Ultra-Orthodox Women and their World*.

For the sociologist, this paradox sheds light on how patriarchal mechanisms work in every society to subordinate women, El-Or said. "[In the haredi world] women are considered guilty until proven innocent, though purity and defilement theoretically affect both men and women." There is an even greater paradox in women's embracing proper speech as their mission. It is a subtle subversion of patriarchal rule, a show of feminine strength — that women have energy and ideas — in a society that is hostile to feminism, she said.

Lasker agreed that the clean-speech movement is a display of women's strength, and that it is inspiring to the participants, but that it is strictly in terms of the community's norms.

"They're proud to be part of this demonstration, to show solidarity," she explained. "The attitude is, 'When we get together, look at what we get together for. It serves to strengthen the community.'"

As if in echo of this sentiment, a woman gazing in awe at the flood of women pouring out of the auditorium after the rally said, "Imagine what it will be like when the Temple is rebuilt. This is nothing in comparison."

Meanwhile, the clean-speech movement has become a veritable growth industry. No other area of action has received such concentrated attention in the haredi community, Lasker said.

It has become customary to study two laws a day on the subject. A recorded daily lesson is available for the price of a local phone call, in cities around the country. The lessons are available in Hebrew and English, and in separate versions for men and for women.

For years, women have been studying in pairs, or *hevruta*, in the capital, and there are groups of young women who study the laws on Fridays immediately after candle-lighting. A flier distributed at the rally says the young women can be asked to dedicate their study for "the sanctification of a departed soul, recovery from illness, progeny, a matrimonial match, good fortune, etc." There are stick-on reminders to put on a phone, pamphlets, quizzes, a new book and even tapes, in English and Hebrew, by more than a dozen rabbis and women lecturers.

The most succinct presentation, however, is a red-bordered card distributed by the Hafetz Haim Foundation, bearing 10 basic rules for proper speech.

A caveat below them advises the reader that "sometimes it is permitted, even obligatory, to speak ill, for example, to warn someone of impending danger in business or in a matrimonial match," though in such cases, one must first consult a rabbi who is an expert on the laws of proper speech.

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Has the bell tolled for Bill?

The immunity agreement between Monica S. Lewinsky and Kenneth W. Starr has been anticipated for months. On the day the deal became a reality, everyone agreed it was significant, but few could agree on how it might affect President Clinton or reshape the political landscape in this election year.

For months, public opinion polls have sent consistent, if somewhat contradictory, messages. Many Americans believe that the president and Lewinsky had a sexual relationship that Clinton has not told the truth about. At the same time, Clinton's job approval has remained high.

The immunity agreement means the American people may hear Lewinsky's version of events, either in a report to Congress from the independent counsel or in direct testimony if Congress were to hold hearings. The question then would be whether the paradox of public opinion that has endured for six months could survive.

This week there were two schools of thought – even among Democrats. One was that since the American people had already weighed the issue of sex, lies and the president and decided they didn't care, there would be little if any damage. The other was that if they were confronted directly with evidence that the president lied, it could produce a political earthquake.

Democratic pollster Mark Mellman argued that public opinion is unlikely to change on the basis of testimony describing a sexual relationship between Clinton and Lewinsky. "I think the only people who have been waiting for this are (people in) the political community," he said. "Therefore I think it's going to have no impact on the voters. The public has reached a set of conclusions about this whole episode. Lots of people believe, rightly or wrongly, that the president had a relationship with Monica Lewinsky... It will come as a surprise to relatively few people."

But a veteran Democratic strategist, who asked not to be identified, saw potential danger for the president. "Everyone seems to shrug their shoulders and say, 'Perjury is perjury, who cares?'" he said. "I think that's a Washington analysis, that no one cares... I think projecting the

Political strategists disagree about what impact Monica Lewinsky's immunity agreement will have on President Clinton's future. Dan Balz and Ruth Marcus report



Lewinsky being pursued by the media as she leaves her attorneys' Washington office this week. (AP)

way the public is going to feel about something that hasn't yet happened is a bit problematic. That presumes they know everything that people will hear. I don't know the facts. I haven't seen the White House logs. I haven't heard the tapes."

Adding to the uncertainty was the fact that so little is known about the precise contours of Lewinsky's story, particularly what she will have to say about the areas that appear to trouble Americans most – obstructing justice and suborning perjury.

"The only thing that would be a major bombshell and would shift the ground in a seismic way is if she testifies the president was somehow involved in obstruction," said one White House adviser.

Another unknown is what the president will say if he consents to answer questions from Starr's

prosecutors. Will Clinton repeat his sworn statements in his deposition in the Paula Jones civil lawsuit denying any relationship with Lewinsky? Will he restate

"The only thing that would be a major bombshell is if Lewinsky testifies the president was somehow involved in obstruction."

his unequivocal public statement that he did not have "sexual relations with that woman?" White House spokesman Michael McCurry said Tuesday

that Clinton had nothing to fear from Lewinsky's testimony. "One would presume... that she is going to testify truthfully and accurately," he told reporters. "So why would that pose any problem to the president?"

But if Lewinsky contradicts the president and he repeats his previous denials before the grand jury, he could open himself up to both legal and political risk, particularly if Starr presents compelling evidence supporting her version of events.

If Clinton's denial "is contradicted by all sorts of evidence and if the independent counsel decides to say to Congress that the president lied not only in his deposition but to the grand jury, Congress will feel obliged to conduct a rather thorough investigation," said George Washington University law professor Stephen Saltzburg.

On the other hand, changing his story at this stage could be equally perilous for the president. "That's a pretty strong statement for him now to reverse course," said one White House adviser, who said the president needs to stick to his original account.

"People assume he's lying. They also assume she's sort of off the wall. They don't want the republic torn down... and therefore they want to move on. If he stays with his story, the public sentiment is going to be, 'We don't believe him but we don't want him impeached.'"

The Lewinsky immunity agreement was announced as Clinton and his lawyers continued to work out the terms under which he would tell his story to Starr's investigators. Those negotiations also bring risks to the president, who having opened the door to testifying may be locked into doing so.

"I don't see how they can back down (from agreeing to testify)," said Jane E. Sherburne, former White House special counsel. The White House strategy of delay has worked to Clinton's advantage so far, but some presidential supporters say that may no longer be the case. "There is great danger for the first time, and it is political danger," one White House defender said.

"If the American people blame the White House for protracting this story, rather than Mr. Starr or the Republicans, that will hurt Clinton's popularity. They're angry, they're tired of this story and they are going to take it out on whoever they think is protracting the story. That's the reason Democrats on the Hill now appear to be anxious for him to testify."

While the immunity agreement puts the most pressure on Clinton, the accelerating investigation poses challenges for both Democrats and Republicans as they move into the campaign season.

Neither party appears particularly anxious to have the matter thrust upon it, particularly before the election. If Starr submits a report to Congress early this fall, Republican leaders will have to decide whether to move quickly to hold hearings into possible impeachment of the president or postpone action until next year – all without knowing which course will incur the most wrath from the voters.

"Some would love to move tomorrow, but I think it would be really dumb," said Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn. "This process should be thoughtful and deliberative, and nothing close to an election is viewed as thoughtful and deliberative, even if it is."

Democrats have even less desire to see the matter aired before the election. One top Democratic aide said he feared a Starr report would obscure any other issue Democrats could raise against the Republicans. A report also could force Democratic candidates into the uncomfortable position of defending the president against unseemly charges.

(The Washington Post)

Dry Bones



GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Shalom, Shalom: (From left) Moshe and Orna Datz, Science Minister Silvan Shalom, Judy Nir Mozes Shalom and son Nadav. (Sivan Farag)

A pleasant surprise coupled with a large dose of nostalgia awaited President Ezer Weizman when he attended this week's opening of the newly renovated Aharonson House and Nili Museum in Zichron Ya'acov.

Nili, a spy network of people primarily from Zichron Ya'acov, Hadera and Rishon LeZion, operated with the British against the Turks from 1915 to 1917. Headed by Aaron Aharonson, a noted agronomist who discovered wild wheat and in 1910 founded an agricultural experimental station in Atlit, Nili's principal figures were the Aharonson siblings, Avshalom Feinberg, Yosef Lishansky and Na'aman Belkind.

Descendants of all four families plus those of other Nili members congregated on the spacious lawn of the Aharonson House to exchange Nili stories which had fascinated them during childhood.

Nili is an acronym derived from the network's password taken from the first book of Samuel, *Netzach Yisrael lo yeshaker*, ("The strength of Israel will not lie").

Though having no blood ties with Nili, Weizman recalled hearing about the organization from his parents, who knew its members. His mother was born in Rishon LeZion, and his father Yehiel was an agronomist who had worked with Aharonson. During a previous visit to the museum, Weizman recalled, his wife Reuma discovered in the archives a receipt for a breakfast which Yehiel Weizman had eaten in Jaffa.

What the president hadn't been prepared for, and what his childhood friend Aharonson Foundation chairman David Shoham had not divulged, was that a photograph of his father from that period was on display in the museum. Peering at it later, Weizman joyfully called out to everyone to come and see his father in his bow-tie.

Among those present were Ishai Shubovsky, head of the Zichron Ya'acov local council, former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, Molelet leader MK Rehavim Ze'evi, former Labor MK Tamar Eshel and agronomist Shlomo Aboulafia.

SCIENCE Minister Silvan Shalom, the most recent appointee to the government, received his current post two years behind schedule – according to him. But better late than never. Shalom celebrated the occasion with a grand party for some 1,000 people at Gan Oranim in Tel Aviv.

Among those in attendance were Shalom's former boss Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Communications Minister Limor Livnat, Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, Transportation Minister Shaul Yahalom, Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, cabinet secretary Danny Naveh, former government minister Moshe Arens, Tel Aviv mayor Ronni Milo, Ra'anana mayor Ze'ev Bielski,

Ramat Gan mayor Zvi Bar, political mover and shaker Dudi Appel, business tycoon and would-be mayor of Tel Aviv Gali Albin, as well as numerous MKs and several showbiz personalities.

What Shalom was not expecting was a surprise from his wife Judy Nir Mozes Shalom and son Nadav, who commissioned Smadar Shir to write a song in his honor. Moshe Datz did the musical arrangement and the song was sung on stage by Judy, Nadav, Moshe and his wife and partner Orna Datz.

Shalom, who in his leisure time sings and plays guitar, was fondly moved and said afterwards that had he known in advance, he would not have permitted the performance to take place. But he did admit that it was an emotional experience. The refrain of the very personal and romantic lyrics which referred to him and his wife stated, "You're 40 and so am I. We've been through a lot together. My place is by your side. With a proffered flower and a tiny tear I wish us both many years of happiness."

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert received high praise this week from parents of autistic children and from Emunah Jerusalem chairwoman and Jerusalem city councilor Mina Fenton. Olmert, who also holds the city's education portfolio, was lauded for responding to the educational needs of autistic children.

At the opening of an exhibition of works by autistic artists, Margalit Tirosh, director general of Alut, publicly commended the mayor for his support. Olmert, who spent much more time at the exhibition than he usually does at public events, was visibly impressed by the exhibits. He promised that Maital, the occupational center for autistic, would continue to receive municipal support.

But the best part of the evening for Olmert was when Shai Gur, one of the young artists, haltingly read a speech of welcome, presented him with a painting and then burst into a heart-warming rendition of "Jerusalem of Gold," upstaging the chamber-music quartet which was quite happy to have him hog the mike.

Later in the week, Fenton told a meeting of the Coalition of Women's Organizations that Olmert had pledged to appoint a woman deputy mayor if he returns to office. Olmert also agreed, she said, to open three kindergartens at City Hall to accommodate the offspring of hundreds of the city's employees.

SOME people at the Israel Broadcasting Authority are worried that if director general Uri Porat manages to reinstate Chaim Yavin as *Mabat* anchorman, he may go one further next year when Yair Stern concludes his term as head of Israel Television and reinstate Yavin in that position as well.

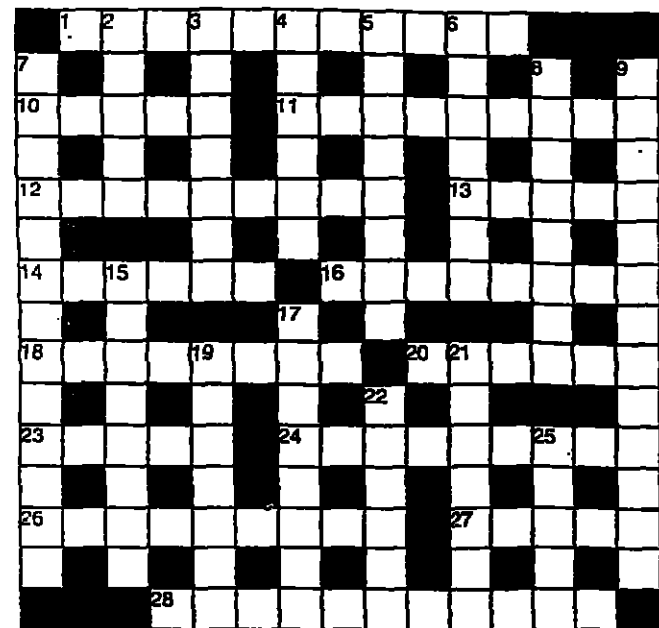
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Smooth call by actor at royal house (11)
- 10 Briefly line up in plant (5)
- 11 Construct a brief act in play (9)
- 12 Labour returned—I afterwards get in with both sides' agreement (9)
- 13 Prevent animals eating last of harvest (5)
- 14 Commander overcome by desire—a plaguey creature (6)
- 16 Upper-class and rich—one sadly is cowardly (8)
- 18 Break spell (8)
- 20 Country finally changed this dictator (6)
- 23 Tongue, pound a can (5)

DOWN

- 2 Horrify a sound apostle (5)
- 3 Gives a note in to teachers (7)
- 4 Tell one's playing well (6)
- 5 Talking turkey? (8)
- 6 Song bringing up death of Theseus's lover (7)
- 7 Comprehensive settlement for our small planet (6,7)
- 8 May find what's wrong with instrument (8)
- 9 Give way here—animal in transit (5,8)
- 15 Share of proceeds I offer? Stop it! (3,2,3)
- 17 Islands can attract group of stars (8)
- 19 High status took precedence, and caused grievance (7)
- 21 Free issue (7)
- 22 Hard work on an advertising catch-phrase (6)
- 25 Youngster admonished, concealing money (5)



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ACROSS: 1 Scout, 4 Hotel, 9 Vulture, 10 Tread, 11 Gown, 12 Trouble, 13 Spy, 14 Tent, 16 Acan, 18 All, 20 Alarmed, 21 Idle, 24 Title, 25 Learner, 26 Docker, 27 Harsh.
DOWN: 1 Savage, 2 Elbow, 3 Tear, 5 Optional, 6 Tremble, 7 Ledger, 8 Petty, 12 Stampede, 16 Elastic, 17 Halted, 18 Adult, 19 Search, 22 Donor, 23 Rash.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Counting frame (6)
- 4 Set of twelve (5)
- 8 Bundle (5)
- 9 Unique performer (7)
- 10 Weather (7)
- 11 Noble (4)
- 12 Hard fruit (3)
- 14 Totter (4)
- 15 Tail-end (4)
- 18 Ovoid (3)
- 21 Jot (4)
- 23 Legendary lover of Hero (7)
- 25 Indonesian orchestra (7)
- 26 Gluttony (5)
- 27 Girl's name (5)
- 28 Proficient (6)

DOWN

- 1 Assault (6)
- 2 Insulting (7)
- 3 Unsteady (8)
- 4 Valley (4)
- 5 African country (5)
- 6 Legal recorder (6)
- 7 Tree (5)
- 13 Geometric form (8)
- 16 Insanity (7)
- 17 Individual (6)
- 19 Glean (5)
- 20 Worn away (6)
- 22 Sri Lankan ethnic group (5)
- 24 Tart (4)

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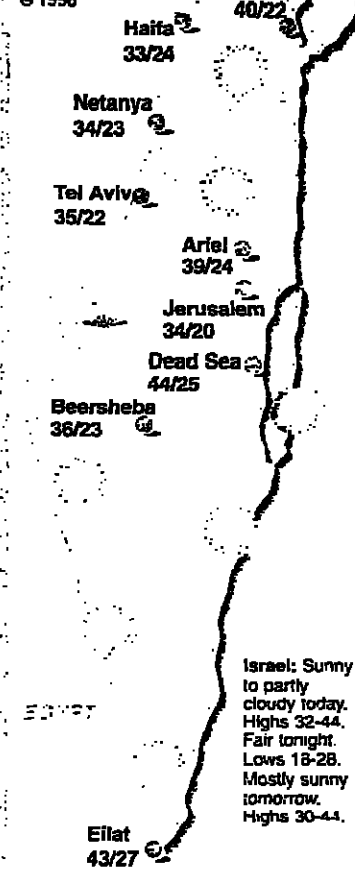
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THE WEATHER

ISRAEL

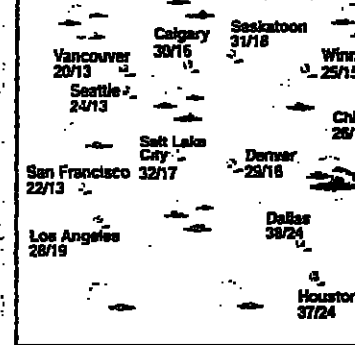
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Israel: Sunny to partly cloudy today. Highs 32-44. Fair tonight. Lows 19-28. Mostly sunny tomorrow. Highs 30-44.

Eilat 43/27

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
High	39/102	39/102	37/88	39/102
Low	24/75	24/75	22/71	24/75
C/F				
Ani	39/102	39/102	37/88	39/102
Beer Sheva	36/97	36/97	34/82	36/97
Dead Sea	44/111	44/111	41/109	44/111
Eilat	43/108	43/108	43/109	43/108
Haifa	33/91	33/91	33/91	33/91
Jerusalem	34/93	34/93	34/93	34/93
Katmon	38/100	38/100	38/100	38/100
Netanya	34/93	34/93	34/93	34/93
Tel Aviv	35/95	35/95	35/95	35/95
Tiberias	40/104	40/104	40/104	40/104

Weather (W): s-sunny, p-partially cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-shower, th-thunderstorm, r-rain, sl-sleet, f-fog, sm-smoke, l-ls.

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
High	18/64	18/64	18/64	18/64
Low	5/35	5/35	5/35	5/35
C/F				
Amsterdam	18/64	18/64	18/64	18/64
Beijing	33/91	33/91	33/91	33/91
Berlin	23/73	23/73	23/73	23/73
Buenos Aires	18/64	18/64	18/64	18/64
Caracas	37/98	37/98	37/98	37/98
Chicago	26/79	26/79	26/79	26/79
Frankfurt	23/73	23/73	23/73	23/73
Hong Kong	33/91	33/91	33/91	33/91
Johannesburg	17/62	17/62	17/62	17/62
London	18/64	18/64	18/64	18/64
Los Angeles	26/79	26/79	26/79	26/79
Madrid	35/95	35/95	35/95	35/95
Mexico City	26/79	26/79	26/79	26/79
Montreal	22/71	22/71	22/71	22/71
Moscow	32/90	32/90	32/90	32/90
New York	26/79	26/79	26/79	26/79
Paris	22/71	22/71	22/71	22/71
Prague	22/71	22/71	22/71	22/71
Rio de Janeiro	23/73	23/73	23/73	23/73
Rome	30/86	30/86	30/86	30/86
Sydney	14/57	14/57	14/57	14/57
Tokyo	28/82	28/82	28/82	28/82
Toronto	24/75	24/75	24/75	24/75
Vancouver	26/79	26/79	26/79	26/79
Warsaw	24/75	24/75	24/75	24/75
Washington	29/84	29/84	29/84	29/84
Zurich	24/75	24/75	24/75	24/75

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The temperature is up in the mid-thirties and it's very hot. Hanukkah seems a long way away. I'm reminded of Hanukkah as I'm looking through photographs taken almost five decades ago during the Festival of the Lights. It was then that tens of thousands of new immigrant children were living in the "ma'abarot" tent cities that were scattered all over the country. It was raining cats and dogs and the tent cities were walled in mud as Hanukkah approached. Helen Rossi, a staffer at The Jerusalem Post, looked at that distressing scene and decided to do something about it. She appealed to our readers to collect the toys their children no longer played with and bring them to the Post to be distributed to the immigrant children. That was 50 years ago.

The ma'abarot have disappeared, but I'm sorry to say we still have many problems: large families with inadequate resources, deprived neighborhoods in need of assistance, children living in budget-strapped institutions and clubhouses in need of re-equipment and support.

Half a century later we're still continuing with Helen Rossi's work. Please lend us a hand.

Remember, no one ever got poor from giving charity. Send your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O.B. 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

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NIS

Inside

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'got game'
Page 23Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori LewisChilean World
Cup defender
joins West Ham

LONDON (Reuters) - Chilean World Cup defender Javier Margas joined Premier League West Ham in a £2 million transfer yesterday.

The London club also added to their defensive resources by recruiting Neil Ruddock from Liverpool on a three-year contract on a pay-as-you-play basis which could push the fee up to £550,000.

Margas joins on a four-year deal from Deportivo Universidad Catolica De Chile.

Ruddock has emerged from five indifferent years at Liverpool to reduce his weight from 95 kgs to 88 kgs, and said: "I worked hard throughout the summer keeping myself in shape."

Stark shooter

By HEATHER CHAIT

Israeli champion rifle shooter Guy Stark placed fourth in the world and set a new national record but most importantly, bought his ticket to the 2000 Sydney Olympics, two years before the opening salvo.

Stark's result came at the world shooting championships (free-rifle, 60 bullets, prone position) held in Barcelona.

In the qualifying rounds, Stark scored 598 out of 600 points, one point better than his own previous record set four years ago, also in Barcelona.

His final score was 700.1 for fourth place, Thomas Tamas from the US won the gold medal with 701.9 points.

The competition, held every four years, attracted 138 shooters. In the junior category, Israel's Anton Katz was the impressive gold medal winner in the free-rifle (three positions, 120 bullets) category.

Tour escapes to Switzerland,
but drug scandal widens

NEUCHÂTEL (AP) - After one of the most turbulent days in its history, the scandal-plagued Tour de France escaped yesterday to peaceful Switzerland, where fans tinkled cowbells along the road and officials promised there wouldn't be any late-night drug raids.

But despite the bucolic surroundings, the athletes couldn't escape news of the widening doping scandal, which continued to claim new victims in the world's biggest cycling event.

Three more teams pulled out to protest police behavior, and investigators for the first time prevented a cyclist from competing after finding drugs in his possession.

When the 18th stage was over, Tom Steels of Belgium had won, but the overall standings remained the same. Italy's Marco Pantani retained the yellow jersey. Bobby Julich of the United States held onto second place, followed by last year's winner, Jan Ullrich of Germany.

Before yesterday's start, there was uncertainty as to whether the race would go on at all. Many riders, angered at the growing investigation, had threatened to pull out entirely. But in the end, 103 of them left the French Alpine town of Aix-les-Bains for a 218-kilometer ride through stunning countryside to Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

The pack whittled down an early lead by a quartet of riders that included two former yellow jersey wearers, Stephen Heulot and Laurent Desbiens, both of France.

Steels, who races for Mapei-Bricobi, edged Erik Zabel of Germany in a sprint finish to post his third stage victory of the Tour. Stuart O'Grady of Australia was third.

But most of the attention was back in France.

Shortly before midnight Wednesday, police in Chambéry, near Aix-les-Bains, detained rider Rodolfo Massi of the Casino team, the leader in mountain climbing standings. They found banned drugs in his room, said prosecutors in the northern city of Lille, where the probe is centered.

They also found drugs in a truck belonging to the Spanish ONCE team - one of five that has dropped out of the race in protest, the prosecutors said. Its doctor, Nicolas Terrados, was detained.

And after a night in detention, a



STEELING THE SHOW - Tom Steels of Belgium celebrates as he wins the 18th stage of the Tour de France following a sprint finish.

third man, Marc Madiot, director of the French team Française des Jeux, was released.

Earlier, two Spanish teams, Kelme and Vitalicio, angrily quit the field, joining the other three Spanish teams, who quit Wednesday. A sixth team, Festina, was thrown out on July 17 after police found dopants in a team

masseur's car - sparking the current scandal.

Of the 21 teams that started this year's Tour, only 15 remain.

Riders at the finish line said they were trying to put the scandal behind them, and think ahead to Sunday's finale on the Champs-Élysées.

Wednesday's 17th stage will

rank as one of the most chaotic in the Tour's history.

After stopping twice, the pack coasted slowly to the finish line, and the stage results were canceled. Riders threatened to give up entirely, but by yesterday morning, they seemed to realize the enormity of stopping the race in protest for the first time since its 1903 debut.

Gay Games draw
eclectic crowdDana International to sing
at opening ceremony

AMSTERDAM (AP) - From skimpily clad revelers to Bible-toting evangelists, the 1998 Gay Games are drawing an eclectic crowd for weeklong festivities celebrating gay pride and culture.

With the theme "Friendship Through Culture and Sports," the quadrennial Olympics-style sports festival begins tomorrow, offering competitors everything from ballroom dancing to wrestling and more cerebral pastimes such as bridge and chess.

This is the first time the Gay Games are being held in Europe since they began in San Francisco in 1982. New York City hosted the last Games in 1994; Sydney, Australia, host of the mainstream Summer Olympics in 2000, will have the first southern hemisphere Gay Games in 2002.

Tomorrow evening's opening ceremony will feature transsexual pop star Dana International, who gained fame - and notoriety - in May after winning the 25-nation Eurovision song contest and incensing Orthodox Jewish leaders at home.

Some 30 competitions will be staged at these games, which run through August 8. Up to 14,000 participants and 200,000 visitors are expected.

Amsterdam is renowned for its tolerance of alternative lifestyles and its lively gay community.

Still, there weren't many signs of the games in the run-up, apart from some posters and a few more same-sex couples than usual strolling arm in arm along the canals.

One top attraction officially has nothing to do with the Gay Games: Tomorrow's yearly canal parade of decorated boats. Games organizers promise a flotilla of participants on the city's famous medieval waterways.

Participants have been warned to refrain from "exhibitionism and sexual behavior" in public or at gatherings. Art exhibits, symposiums on gay and lesbian issues and cooking shows are also being staged in connection with the games.

Up to 100 representatives from the international evangelism group Youth with a Mission plan to stage Christian-themed street dramas and pray with participants.

"God wants to care for people whether they are homosexuals or heterosexuals," said YWAM spokeswoman Nelke Boss-hardt.

Dutchwoman Sigrid Johannis, who will be competing in the badminton competition, said she's searching for fun and friendship. Even so, she hopes the Gay Games one day will disappear as homosexuals become more accepted.

Caniggia's wife brands
Maradona homosexual

BUENOS AIRES (AP) - Diego Maradona's controversial antics continue as his lawyer said Wednesday the Argentine star plans to sue the wife of his close friend and former teammate, Claudio Caniggia.

Guillermo Coppola, Maradona's lawyer, said the lawsuit stems from Mariana Nannis' recent comments calling Maradona a homosexual for the public kisses he used to give Caniggia.

"At times I believe Diego is in love with my husband," Caniggia's wife recently told a local cable television station.

"It must be the long hair and big muscles," Coppola said the lawsuit could be avoided if Nannis would simply retract the statement.

While playing, Maradona frequently gave Caniggia, a teammate on Argentina's national team and later on the Argentine club Boca Juniors, a peck on the lips after one of the players scored.

Most fans assumed Maradona's action was a sign of affection between the two close friends.

Maradona was irked by some of Nannis' past comments, but had been willing to overlook them because of his friendship with Caniggia.

Lithuania deals US hoopsters rude awakening, 84-82

ATHENS (AP) - Lithuania, behind Arturas Karnisovas' 29 points, beat the United States 84-82 yesterday at the World Basketball Championship to snap the Americans' 26-game winning streak at major international events.

Jimmy Oliver's desperation 3-point shot rolled around the rim and dropped out after the US inbounded with half a second left.

The US string of victories, which includes two Olympic golds and a world title, was built by Dream Teams of NBA stars.

Because of the ongoing NBA labor dispute, this US team is a mixed bag of mostly anonymous players from the CBA, European leagues and college.

They were outplayed and often outmuscled by Lithuania, which was without its own two NBA players, Arvydas Sabonis and Zydrunas Ilgauskas.

The United States (1-1) never found a defensive solution for Karnisovas, who played at Seion Hall and was the 1997 European player of the year. The 2.03-meter

(6-foot-9) forward scored 20 of his points after halftime, on a mix of slashes to the basket and timely outside shooting.

In another key game yesterday, 1990 world champion Yugoslavia came back to beat Russia 82-74 in overtime. Dejan Bodiroga made six free throws in the final 52 seconds as Yugoslavia (2-0 to top Group B) scored the last 10 points of the game.

Lithuania now tops Group C in preliminary round play with a 2-0 record. Like the US, Brazil is 1-1 after beating South

Korea 76-73 yesterday behind 17 points from Caio Cazzolato and 14 from Rogerio Klafke.

Veteran center Jose Ortiz had game-highs of 22 points and 11 rebounds to lead Puerto Rico (1-1) past winless Japan 78-57 in a Group B game. Ortiz once played for the Utah Jazz.

Elsewhere, Martin Keane had topped all players with 14 points and 11 rebounds to lead Canada (1-1) past Senegal 70-57 in Group A action. Senegal is 0-2.

Lewis to be
disciplined after
criticizing
selectors

LEICESTER, (AP) - English all-rounder Chris Lewis will be disciplined by his county team after criticizing selectors who omitted him from England's World Cup cricket squad.

Lewis - who played for England against South Africa in two limited-overs internationals in May - said the 37-man England squad was not picked on "cricketing ability" and selectors were "full of ...".

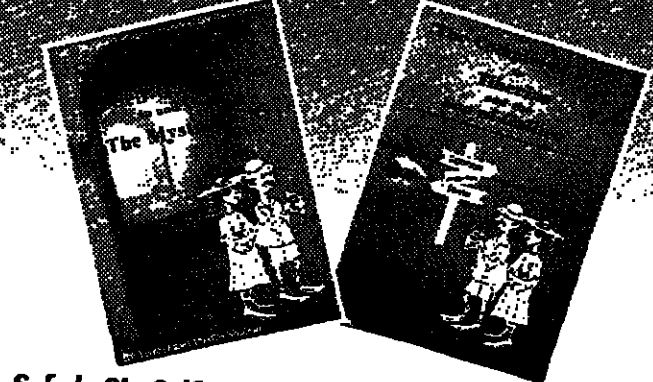
The Leicestershire player made the remarks after his team's NatWest Trophy win over Warwickshire on Tuesday.

WORLD
SEPHARDI FEDERATION
ISRAEL EXECUTIVE

The World Sephardi Federation in Israel that includes the organizations, associations and committees referred to as "Adot Hamizrach", strongly denounces MK Ori Or's statements which border on racism towards all members of the "Adot Hamizrach", who represent 50% of the population of the State of Israel.

MK Ori Or must resign from Knesset and if he does not, it is the duty of the chairman of his party to condemn him and the Labor Party must dismiss him from its ranks.

The Chairman of the Labor Party must immediately and unequivocally announce that Ori Or does not and will not represent the Labor Party in any post.

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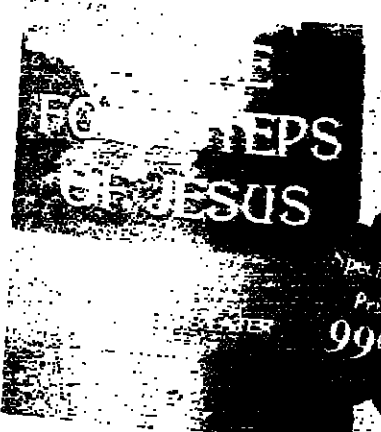
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